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Bienvenu

Red: two gold arrows placed crosswise



Bienvenn
de Bretagne

Blue: divided diagonally by silver bends
engroiled, four silver horseshoes, ends
pointing down

BIENVENU

Bienvenu is a French pet name which has the literal meaning "welcome." The female form is Bienvenue. The Italian names Benvenuto "arrive welcome" and Benvenuti "welcomes" are cognates. It is possible that the name was also given to some small village or crossroads and, in which case, it may also be a place name.

THE BIENVENU FAMILY OF ST. MARTINVILLE

Willie Z. Bienvenu, M.D.*

Les Bienvenus en la France

L. *Philippe Bienvenu*, resident of Orleans, Departement of Loiret, married ca. 1670, *Esperance Petit*. They had a son,

II. *Philippe Bienvenu*, born in Orleans in 1671, and he was baptized in the church of Saint Paul on March 23, 1671. At the age of 25 years, he moved to Lorient, Department of Morbihan, and three years later married *Francoise Allaire* on July 5, 1699. She was originally from Ploemeur, the daughter of *Jeanne Raudas*, and was previously married to *Jean Bernard*. Their children:

1. *Philippe Francois*, baptized July 11, 1700, in Ploemeur. He died four days later.
2. *Marie Françoise*, baptized September 23, 1701.
3. *Pierre Antoine*, baptized March 22, 1703.

(Archives Departemental du Morbihan, Les Registres de Ploemeur)

4. *Jeanne*
5. *Elizabeth*

After several attempts at colonizing Louisiana as a proprietorship (Crozat, John Law's Company of the West, the Company of the Indies), the French government offered large grants to men who agreed to provide tenants to work their "concessions."

(Joe Gray Taylor, *Louisiana*, New York, W. W. Norton & Co., 1976)

Thus we find *Philippe Bienvenu* and his fifteen-year-old son *Antoine* embarking the schooner *Victoire* commanded by M. *Derossat* at the port of Lorient on May 23, 1718, bound for Louisiana and the concession of M. *Pierre de Melique* in Illinois.

The Illinois country, or simply Illinois, was the term commonly applied in the 17th and 18th centuries to the region which eventually became the state of the same name. As originally used by the French explorers, the term designated the country occupied by the Illinois Indians. When white settlements took root along the Illinois and Mississippi rivers, the reference was to the area of which these were the nuclei. Not until the 19th century was the area definitely delineated.

(James T. Adams, editor-in-chief, *Dictionary of American History*, Vol. III)

*Dr. Bienvenu, a graduate of the L.S.U. school of medicine, is a native of St. Martinville and a general practitioner there. Inspired by his great uncle, *Merciel Durand*, whom he calls his "guiding light," Bienvenu, at the age of ten or eleven, awakened to the fascination of putting together a "family tree." Dr. Bienvenu is also working on such allied lines as *Duperier*, *Durand*, *Bonin*, *Simon*, *Detraz*, and *Villerman*. The interconnections in these families are a revelation, Bienvenu says. It is amazing how wide-ranging the relationships are.

Philippe Bienvenu, who was a master carpenter ("mennisier"), came to the settlement of Kaskaskia, Illinois (near present-day St. Louis, Missouri), where he was building houses in 1723. He was left a widower and married Marie Forêt, widow of Pierre Verrier, on June 6, 1724, when he was 52 years old.

Children of Philippe Bienvenu

1. *Philippe François*, died July 15, 1700.
2. *Marie Françoise*, married March 16, 1721, in New Orleans, François La Ferrière dit Bouillie, son of François Bouillie and Marguerite Rousseau.
3. *Pierre Antoine* (see below)
4. *Jeanne*, native of parish of Pleines in the diocese of Cannes, married Charles Gossiaux in Kaskaskia on September 13, 1723. Charles was a master mason, the son of Philippe Gossiaux of the diocese of Cambrais. She had died by September 12, 1729. He later married Marie Rose Gonneau, widow of Pierre Claude Maréchal. He died on February 8, 1751, age fifty-two years. Jeanne's children:

1. Jacques
2. Jeanne, married Guillaume Mercier dit Toulouse in Kaskaskia. She died December 21, 1746.
5. *Elizabeth* married in Kaskaskia François Corset dit Coco. He was a carpenter. Their children were:

1. François, married Françoise Scionnaux Desmoulins, daughter of Louis and Françoise Melique, on May 13, 1740.
2. Catherine, married November 23, 1751, Antoine Capon dit Boise tout.
3. Marie Jeanne married October 12, 1756, Jean-Baptiste Maurice dit Chatillon, widower of Marguerite Cressman.

(Natalia Marae Belting, *Kaskaskia Under the French Regime*, Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1948)

Les Bienvenus en Amerique

Pierre Antoine Bienvenu was born in Lorient, Brittany, France, March 1703. He came to Kaskaskia, Illinois Territory, at age fifteen. There he married Françoise Rabut, widow of Pierre Durand and of Pierre Melet, on June 3, 1726. Their children included:

1. *Marie Louise*, Married January 13, 1750, Captain Benoist de St. Claire (aged fifty-seven years), chevalier of the Order of Saint Louis, commandant at Illinois 1740-42, 1749-50. He came to Louisiana as an ensign in 1717, became lieutenant in 1732, and captain in 1737. In 1752, he was the oldest

captain in the colony. He died before December 1770. They had one child:

(Lo. Hist. Quarterly, Vol. VIII, 175)

1. Jean-Baptiste Benoist de St. Clair, lieutenant de Dragon de la Legion Royale de Milice du Mississippi. He came to Poste des Attakapas and married on May 28, 1793, Marie Louise Hyacinth de Clouet, daughter of Don Alexandre Chevalier de Clouet and Louise de Faverot.

(St. Martin Old Acts, Book 14, No. 12)

(Chevalier Alexandre François Joseph de Clouet de Piedre, son of Jean Martin de Clouet de Piedre, conseiller du Roi, and beaune (Bonne) Gambier (Gambry), was born ca. 1715 in the parish of St. Martin, diocese of Cambry (Cambrai), Picardy, France. He became a cadet in the French army in 1740, acting major general in 1746, lieutenant in the French army of Louisiana when he arrived in New Orleans in 1758, breveted lieutenant-colonel in the same in 1778. He married Anne Louise de Favrot, daughter of Claude François Favrot and Louise Elizabeth Brule, in New Orleans May 11, 1761. His service in Louisiana included the detached naval troops; Spanish service as breveted lieutenant-colonel of infantry. He was the first commandant of the Arkansas Post under Spanish rule, was appointed commandant of Attakapas and its militia in 1774. He died July 30, 1789, was buried in St. Louis Cemetery in New Orleans. His wife, Anne, died December 1814, buried in St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church Cemetery.)

Attakapas Gazette, Vol. III, no. 1, 4)

In November 1776, Marie Louise leased to her son her dwelling for the price of 150 pesos annually. The dwelling was located about one league (2.5 miles) below the city of New Orleans and contained buildings, machinery animals and 14 slaves.

(Louisiana Bicentennial Almanac. The Morning Advocate, Baton Rouge, Nov. 28, 1976)

He died November 5, 1796, in Saint Martinville.

Marie Louise Bienvenu married 2nd Pierre René Harpain de la Gautrais, native of Brittany, widower of Celeste Therese Nepveu.

2. Jeanne, married February 5, 1743, Jacques Gabriel la Course, son of Pierre la Course and Marie Magdelaine Bourbeau, native of Three Rivers, Illinois Territory. He was born 1710. She had died by February 3, 1749, when Jacques married Charlotte Guillemot daughter of Jean-Baptiste Guillemot dit La Lande and Charlotte Marchand.

3. *Elizabeth*, married November 1744, Pierre la Course, widower of Marie Louise Roy; married June 23, 1755, Joseph Dubord. They had a daughter, Elizabeth; died sometime before January 11, 1762, when Dubord married Louise Carmouche.

4. *Antoine*, born 1731, died May 11, 1805. His second wife was Louise Denis, born 1753, died February 21, 1788.

Pierre Antoine lived in Kaskaskia, receiving two land grants: On May 2, 1737, four arpents front from the hills to the Mississippi at Prairie du Rocher was granted to him. A second grant of one arpent front there was made July 9, 1737.

(American State Papers, Public Lands, II, map, 181)

He remained in Kaskaskia until after 1739 at which time he is recorded as serving as syndic (magistrate) of the settlement, representing the village in all lawsuits against it.

(Kaskaskia Under the French Regime)

He moved to lower Louisiana and settled near New Orleans. He was a wealthy landowner, having the largest plantation in Saint Bernard. He had been a major of the Kaskaskia militia, became a captain in the coast guard. He was a prominent and highly respected man. In matters requiring wise and judicial advice he was often sought. Because of his unimpeachable character and sound wisdom, being trained in the law, during the Spanish occupancy he was invited to serve on the cabildo, the colony's chief judicial body, and sat at the court's first session in December 1769.

(Gayarra, *History of Louisiana. Spanish Domination*)

(*Courier de la Louisiane*, January 13, 1842, p. 40)

(*Louisiana Hist. Quarterly*, Vol. 33, 289)

Pierre Antoine married second Marie Marthe Devince (born 1737, Mobile, Ala.), daughter of Alexandre Devince and Marie Chauvin, granddaughter of Jacques Chauvin and Marie de la Vergne, on June 5, 1754. (She was seventeen years old, he was fifty-one.) They had seven sons and five daughters. Among them were

1. *Alexandre Devince*, born 1764 (see below)

2. *Pierre Antoine, Jr.*, born 1762, owned Bienvenu Plantation adjacent to Chalmette Plantation in Saint Bernard at the time of the Battle of New Orleans, January 1815. He had six boys and six girls. Among them were

1. Antoine

2. Charles Fierville; served as a private in the Battle of New Orleans.

3. François Vileor; served as a lieutenant in the Battle of New Orleans.

4. Louis Marcelle; served as a private in the Battle of New Orleans.

5. Charlotte Delphine; married Delphin Villeré, son of General Jacques Philippe Villeré (second governor of Louisiana) and Jeanne Henriette de Fazende.

6. Charlotte Adèle, born 1797, died January 11, 1829, married Louis Hardy de Boisblanc.

(Isabel Franch. *They Lived at Chalmetta*. New Orleans, St. Bernard Historical Society, 1978)

3. *Mathilde*, born 1756.

4. *Marie Marthe*, married François Chauvin Deléry Delisle.

5. *Melicourt* became the owner of Kenilworth Plantation (built ca. 1759 on one of the plantations secured by French and Spanish land grants to Pierre Antoine Bienvenu) situated on Courthouse Road leading out of the St. Bernard Highway at Poydras, eighteen miles below New Orleans and nine miles from Lake Borgne. Kenilworth was featured in the novel "Madame Castel's Lodger" by Frances Parkinson Keyes. Melicourt married Joséphine Guichard, daughter of Magloire Guichard and Constance de Morant, granddaughter of Vincent, chevalier de Morant and Constance Volant, of Normandy. The De Morant family had been prominent in the First Crusade, serving in Constantinople in 1096 under Robert Curthose II, Duke of Normandy. Magloire Guichard had a plantation in St. Bernard near Antoine Bienvenu's. He was speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1812 to 1815. He opposed General Andrew Jackson and was suspected of English sympathies.

(Hermen Seebald. *Old La. Plantation Homes & Family Trees*, Vol. I, 65)

Melicourt and Josephine had six children:

1. Delzira married Archibald Montgomery of Ireland.

1. Lydia married James Moore of Ireland.

2. Alcée

3. Amenda

4. Guichard

5. Léontine married Henri Boucher

1. Augustus

2. Charles

6. Louise married first William Crawford

1. William married Kathleen Owen, married second Charles C. Crawford.

2. Charlotte married Pierre Joseph d'Huer

1) Joseph married Jean Martin

1. Micheline

2. Allard, unmarried

3. John

4. James

5. Joséphine

6. Lewis Bienvenu married Louisiana Foster, daughter of Honorable Murphy Foster, former governor of Louisiana

1. Marion

2. Louise

3. Lewis

7. Charles married Cornelia Smith

Alexandre Devince Bienvenu, third generation in America, was born in New Orleans in 1764, died June 16, 1805, age forty-one years, at St. Martinville. He married Felicité Louise Henriette de Grondel de Latil (born 1762 in New Orleans, died 1833 in St. Martinville), daughter of Alexandre, chevalier de Latil, and Jeanne de Grondel, granddaughter of French Admiral Philippe Goujon de Grondel (a Royalist) of the Swiss Karrer Regiment and the Swiss Grenadiers, chevalier de Saint-Louis; great-granddaughter of Captain Charles Claude du Tisé, on the staff of Bienville, commandant at Illinois; he helped St. Denis to establish the post of Natchitoches. They were married in Saint Louis Cathedral, New Orleans, March 18, 1783. Out of this union were born six sons and three daughters. Louise Henriette gave her six sons to the Battle of New Orleans (January 8, 1815), and offered her services to nurse the wounded soldiers. She received a letter of thanks and praise from Governor W. C. C. Claiborne, public commendation and thanks from General Jackson, and was carried through the streets of New Orleans in a chair on the shoulders of two soldiers in honor of her services. Her sister, Magdelaine Polonia married Bernard d'Hauterive, July 2, 1793.

(St. Martin Church. Vol. 4, No. 83)

Alexandre Devince, like his father, was very wealthy. He owned over 2,400 arpents of the finest lands in the Attakapas, stretching from Cypress Island to Bayou Teche and across to the Catahoula Road, and had some forty slaves on his large holdings. He named his plantation "Beau-Bassin". On the 1810 tax list of landowners and slaveowners, Widow Devince owned property with fifty-one arpents frontage on the Bayou and fourteen slaves.

The children of Alexandre Devince and Felicité were

I. Alexandre Devince, Jr., born January 5, 1784; died July 8, 1855, age 71.

II. Marie Jeanne Aspasie, born November 20, 1783; died November 28, 1819, age 25.

III Thomas Raphael Thimecourt, born October 24, 1787; died August 28, 1833, age 47.

IV Charles Timoleon, born February 2, 1791; died October 13, 1830, age 38.

V. Pierre Terville, born November 20, 1793.

VI Joseph Terence, born August 30, 1795; died November 30, 1843, age 48.

VII. Francois Théodule, born December 26, 1797; died March 13, 1867, age 69.

VIII. Alexandrine (Alix), born 1798, died September 10, 1804, age 6.

IX. Felicite Amynthe, born November 11, 1801.

(Will of Sieur Alexandre Devince Bianvanu, June 10, 1805, St. Martin Court House)

The Bienvenus of Saint Martinville

*Descendants of
Alexandre Devince Bienvenu, Jr.*

Alexandre Devince, Jr., oldest son of Alexandre Devince Bienvenu and Henriette de Latil, was born "in the Attakapas" January 15, 1784; died July 8, 1855, in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, aged seventy-one years. He married June 2, 1803, in New Orleans Charlotte Uranie Pascalis de la Barrie, daughter of Don Francisco Pascalis de la Barre and Charlotte Dutillet; granddaughter of Francisco Pascalis de la Barre and Charlotte Valant. Don Francisco was a councilman on the New Orleans cabildo and chief constable in charge of the jail. He was appointed to serve as an adviser and member of the committee to plan and construct the Cabildo building and jail following the disastrous fire of March 21, 1788. Construction of the Cabildo was completed in 1799.

Alexandre, Jr., was thirty-one years old when the Battle of New Orleans was fought in 1815. He served as a private in Captain L. J. L. Wiltz's Infantry Company, 4th Regiment, Louisiana Militia, under Colonel G. W. Morgan. He was an enlisted man in the armed forces of the United States from December 1814 to March 1815, serving in St. Bernard Parish and on the battlefield at Chalmette, adjoining the Bienvenu family plantation. A bronze memorial marks his burial place in New Orleans.

(Records of the U. S. War Department, Chalmette Chapter, United Daughters, 1812)

Alexander, Jr., and Uranie were parents of eight children:

A. François Alexandre, born 1805; died October 22, 1887, age 82 years; married January 29, 1831, Henriette Anaspasie Olivier du Clozel de Vezin. She was born November 27, 1810, daughter of Pierre Olivier du Clozel de Vezin, and Marie Jeanne Aspasia Bienvenu, daughter of Alexandre Devince, Sr.

1. Aspasia, born October 1831, died December 22, 1832, age 14 months.
2. Marie Uranie, born September 18, 1832, died September 19, 1836, age 4 years.
3. Philomene Elodie, born October 16, 1836, died August 1, 1866,

married January 20, 1858, Charles Guerinere Bienvenu, born 1822, son of Pierre Terville Bienvenu and Sophie de Kerlegand. They had no children.

4. Francois Alexandre, born May 6, 1839.

5. Louise, born 1845, unmarried.

6. Francoise Beim, married Alexandre Bienvenu.

7. Amelina, born 1850,

B. *Théodule*, married April 27, 1835, Charlotte Hermina Bienvenu, born February 23, 1817, daughter of Francois Théodule Bienvenu and M. G. Celeste Fontenette.

1. Francois Alexandre, born July 28, 1837, married first Amanda Riviere; married second March 19, 1881, Victoria Amanda Fontenette of Orleans Parish.

1) Joseph, born January 9, 1882, married Virginia Bishoff of New Orleans.

1. Elma married Victor Thorn

2. Doris married Joseph Sninchek

3. Ethel married Mario Bonfanti

4. Virginia married Dr. Wayne P. Wallace

2) Fernand

C. *Celestine*, born 1808, died June 27, 1811, age three and one-half years.

D. *Casimir*, born August 16, 1810, died August 9, 1836, age 26 years; married November 12, 1832, Louise Constance Amelina Bienvenu, born December 19, 1815, daughter of Thomas Thimecourt Bienvenu and Elise Veillon.

1. Marie, born August 18, 1834

E. *Alexandre Antoine*, born 1823, died August 26, 1826, age 3 years.

F. *Antoine Anatole*, born January 30, 1824.

G. *Joseph Hypolite*, born March 18, 1829.

H. "Boy", born September 1831, died October 10, 1832, age 13 months.

*Descendants of
Marie Jeanne Aspasie Bienvenu*

The Olivier Family

1 Hugues Olivier de Vezin, seigneur of Sionne-en-Bussigny, Province of Champagne, married Louise Leroux de Dinjolincoeur.

11 Pierre François Marie Olivier, sieur de Vezin, born Nancy, France, 1716, died New Orleans 1776. Councillor of the King, established one of the earliest iron foundries in Canada at Trois Rivières in 1737, Forge St. Maurice. He married June 14, 1747, at Trois Rivières, Marie Josephe Gatineau Duplessis, born September 4, 1720, daughter of Jean-Baptiste Gatineau Duplessis and Marie Odeste Le Boulanger. She died December 4, 1772, in New Orleans. In 1749, he was appointed inspector general of public works for the Province of Louisiana and moved to New Orleans. Holding high governmental positions, he was honored by the Spaniards, being given a seat on the first Cabildo in 1769. They had eight children:

1. Hugues Charles Honoré Olivier de Vezin de St. Maurice, born 1748 at Trois Rivières, married Marie Madeline Philippe de Marigny de Mandeville, daughter of Antoine Pierre Philippe de Marigny de Mandeville and Francoise de Lile Dupart.

2. Charlotte Constance Olivier de Vezin, born 1750 at New Orleans, died August 11, 1801. Married first Daniel Fagot de la Garcinière; married second Charles Antoine de Reggio.

3. Pierre Louis Olivier d'Erneville, born October 18, 1752 at New Orleans, died May 9, 1805, lieutenant colonel in the Regiment of Louisiana, served under Governor Gálvez in the American Revolution.

4. Charles Frédéric Olivier de Forcelle, born 1753, married Marie Françoise la Mollère d'Orville.

5. Vincent Adelaïde Olivier de Vezin, born 1755, married Etienne de la Lande d'Alcours.

6. Nicolas Joseph Godefroi Olivier de Vezin, born 1757, married 1789 to Marie Marianne Bienvenu, daughter of Jean-Baptiste Bienvenu and Hélène Belet (widow of Louis Armand Ducrest)

7. Louise Judith Olivier de Vezin, born 1758, married Chevalier Augustin de Reggio.

8. Françoise Victoria Olivier de Vezin, born 1763, died June 23, 1820, Ursuline nun (Mère Sainte Marie). She was Superior on January 8, 1815 (Battle of New Orleans), and made a vow to have a solemn High Mass and a *Te Deum* sung annually if the Americans were victorious.

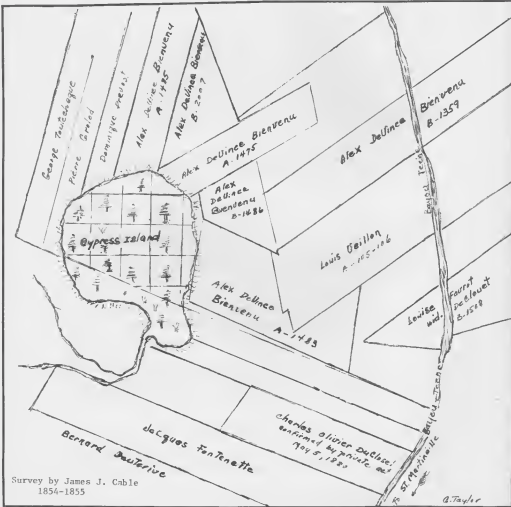
Hugues Charles Honoré Olivier de Vezin had two children:

1. Colonel Charles Borromée de Vezin, born November 18, 1778, died November 3, 1864, married first 1798 Celeste Mathilde deBlanc, born June

15, 1783, daughter of Captain Louis Charles deBlanc and Elizabeth Poupponne d'Erneville. He married second March 15, 1812, Anne Wilhelmina Perrault, daughter of Jean-Baptiste Perrault and Marie Madeleine Le Cann.

2. Pierre Olivier du Clozel de Vezin, born April 30, 1782, died October 30, 1840.

(to be continued)



COLONIAL LAND GRANTS IN THE ATTAKAPAS*

By

Gertrude C. Taylor**



WHILE accounts of social, economic, and cultural life in the Louisiana colony under both French and Spanish governments abound, little has been recorded concerning the manner in which the representatives of these two colonial powers disposed of the vast and fertile lands of the Louisiana province.

It is now fairly certain that France regarded her colony as a mere military outpost, a guardian to the gateway of her more profitable possession, Canada, and that there was no other interest in the colony except for financial gain.

Indeed, Louisiana had the unhappy fate to be born and to spend its early years as a colony of France during what has been described as the decadent period of French history. (1) In no way did France attempt to build a new France in Louisiana other than through large concessions of land or proprietary grants to individuals like Antoine Crozat, whose undertaking was meant to increase population but which failed miserably, (2) or to John Law, a financial schemer whose company was authorized to grant or sell land, (3) or to the Company of the Indies, whose devotion to production of wealth was far from tantamount to the

*This article prefaces the map series, "Land Grants Along the Teche." The three-part series, the first of which is published in conjunction with the spring issue of *Attakapas Gazette*, indicates all original French concessions of and Spanish patents to lands lying along the Teche from Bayou Courtebleu to Berwick Bay. The above entitled article, "Colonial Land Grants in the Attakapas," offers an insight into the land settlement policies of French and Spanish regimes in colonial Louisiana and explains the difference between original land grants and certified titles obtained through occupancy and cultivation. Part II and Part III of the map series will be available later in the year.

**The writer gratefully acknowledges the guidance of Glenn R. Conrad in the preparation of this article.

1. Edwin Adams Davis, *The Story of Louisiana*, 3 vols. (New Orleans, La., 1960), I, 37-38.

2. Many of these concessions were inoperative, and many disputes over titles and boundaries arose. Glenn R. Conrad, ed., *Readings in Louisiana History* (New Orleans, La., 1978), p. 20.

Crozat himself recommended forced emigration of certain criminals and of girls from the poorhouses of France to the colony where they might establish themselves as farmers, and thereby help to feed the colony. Glenn R. Conrad, "Emigration Forcée," *Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française*, 28 (March, 1975).

3. Law's Company of the West was dedicated to colonization, encouraged by liberties and immunities. Frenchmen, however, were not interested. Law's inducements appealed only to the hardy Germans and Swiss, who, for reasons of personal freedom, decided to build new lives for themselves and their families in a new land. To increase population, then, Law was compelled to transport criminals and indigents to the colony. Davis, *Story of Louisiana*, II, 23.

Close ties between the French Regency and the merchant organizers of the Company of the West, coupled with a natural desire to make Louisiana profitable as quickly and cheaply as possible, led to an immediate and significant expansion of the forced emigration policy. Overnight, the floodgates of deportation opened, and the meager population was increased by the French undesirable—military deserters, thieves, murderers, vagabonds, prostitutes, and even "incorrigibles."

Although ended in part by the introduction of slavery to the colony, the policy of forced emigration, instead of being an advantage, turned out to be a serious obstacle in the progress of the colony.

Conrad, "Emigration Forcée."

establishment of any permanent settlements. (4)

From 1731, when the Company of the Indies asked Louis XV to revoke their charter, until 1763, when France ceded Louisiana to Spain, the colony was part of the royal domain. During the few years of peace in the first half of the eighteenth century, France did little to develop Louisiana, and the mistakes and misfortunes of earlier times, now compounded, only increased the misery of the dwindling population. (5) Land settlement policies, nevertheless, had begun to develop as early as Crozat's proprietorship, when he granted large concessions above New Orleans. Smaller farmers, like the thrifty, hardworking Germans sent by the Company of the Indies, had established themselves on sites of the former Indian villages on the banks of the Mississippi farther above New Orleans. When cleared lands were exhausted, the settlers cleared lands of their own. (6) In 1731, Governor Perier and *Ordonnateur* Salmon received a blanket authorization for granting land and for reclaiming it if it was not put into cultivation within a reasonable length of time. (7) On March 9, 1732, the

4. Charles Geyrre. *History of Louisiana*, 4th ed., 4 vols. (1847-1854; reprint ed., New Orleans, 1965), I, 454.

The earliest recorded date of a concession issued in France is that to M. de la Jonchère on October 26, 1719. That document reads as follows:

The Directors of the Company of the Indies

Messrs. the Directors of the colony of Louisiana will grant to Mr. de la Jonchère, who sends fifty persons to the colony to establish there a large plantation for his own account, a concession in allodium ("en franc aleu") of four geometrical leagues of land in a square or otherwise figure containing the same space, on the site chosen by his managers or proposed by the Directors for the said plantation, as they shall judge proper being on the spot, provided that it has not been conceded to others or reserved for the establishments of the Company. They shall be provisionally put in possession of said concession whilst waiting on the procès-verbal to be drawn up and sent in France to the Company, which will remit the letters of concession in due form to said Sieur de la Jonchère in order that he, his heirs or assigns may enjoy the perpetuity as belonging to him.

Done at Paris in the office of the Company of the Indies, Oct. 26, 1719,

Signed: Coreault, Dartequiette, Diran, Gestehois, de Laheye, Costenier, Sevelet, Montpellier, Fromaget.

Translated from the Book of Concessions, Louisiana Historical Society, at the Cebildo in New Orleans by Héliose H. Cruzet in "Distribution of Land in the Colony of Louisiana by the Company of the Indies, 1717-1736," *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, XI (1928), 554.

5. The king's officials did, indeed, take unfair advantage of the frightened frontier settlers who had fled the Natchez War to New Orleans where they were without food, shelter, and employment. Trade with France languished and discipline in the military and in the government collapsed. The census of 1744 shows a decline in total population since the Company of the Indies retroceded the colony to the Crown in 1731. By the middle 1750s, the colony was completely demoralized, without adequate agriculture, industry, or commerce; without enough solid citizenry, and without hope for the future. Davis, *Story of Louisiana*, I, 66-67.

6. *Ibid.*, p. 71.

7. Memoir to serve as Instructions for Perier and Selmon, May 22, 1731. France. Archives Nationales, Archives of the Colonies, Series B, Volume 55, Folios 594-595v; hereafter cited as AC, B, with volume and folio numbers.

Etienne Perier, governor of the colony, arrived in 1727. Edmé Gatiou de Selmon was *ordonnateur*. Although at first claimed a marvelous success, Perier failed in his undertaking because he had neither ability nor experience to govern a pioneer colony. Davis, *Story of Louisiana*, II, 54.

governor received another royal ordinance requiring persons who had received land grants from the Company of the Indies to register their titles. (8)

Later, the Marquis de Vaudreuil, then governor, was permitted to discharge once a year two soldiers from each company provided they settled in the colony on lands ceded to them. (9) The policies and practices of settlement through land grants was becoming more evident.

In 1751, concessions of land were made to soldiers who had distinguished themselves for their good conduct and in consideration of their marriages to girls transported to Louisiana from France. (10) When Jean-Jacques Blaise d'Abbadie succeeded Louis Billouart de Kerlérec as governor, he noted the deplorable conditions in which he found the colony. Particularly disturbing to the governor was the decreasing population, (12) and he reported that his predecessors seemed to be more interested in filling their own pockets than in forwarding the French flag. Moreover, the colonists were lazy, they drank too much, they quarreled among themselves and with officials, and they generally depended upon the mother country rather than developing an economy of their own. (13)

It is no small wonder, then, that France happily rid itself of this unsuccessful and unprofitable colony by ceding it to Spain in 1762. Ironically, early in 1765, even before Spain

8. AC, B 23:108.

9. This ordinance further stated that discharged soldiers or any other persons desiring to settle in the colony would be given necessary implements to improve the lands ceded to them and a supply of corn and rice for eighteen months. The governor was instructed to see that lands were well-chosen, that lands should lie close together, and that the formation of villages be encouraged. Gayarré, *History of Louisiana*, II, 52.

Although they received their grants at later dates, Bernard Dauterive, Alexander LaPalatier Delahoussaye, and Fusillier de la Claire were some of those who settled on land grants along the Teche after their discharge from the military service in the colony. See Map Sarria, "Land Grants Along the Teche," *Attakapas Gazette*.

10. Concessions of land were made to each couple, along with one cow and its calf, one cock five hens, one gun, one axe, and one spade. During the first three years of their settlement, they were to receive rations of provisions and a small quantity of powder, shot, grains, and seeds. Gayarré, *History of Louisiana*, III, 64-65.

11. Concerning the group of settlers who had arrived from Lorraine in 1754, Governor Kerlérec wrote under the date of July 4, 1754:

I have received the families from Lorraine by the Concord. They are established at "aux Allemands" and work well. Many like them would be necessary for advancement of the colony.

...

J. Hanno Dellar, *The Settlement of the German Coast of Louisiana, and Creole of German Descent* (Philadelphia, 1909), pp. 105-106.

12. In the Archives of the Marine in France, a memorial, dated August 15, 1763, and written by one Radon de Rassac, states the obstacles to the prosperity of the colony as 1) under Mr. de Vaudreuil, half the married women sent to Louisiana had no children and were between fifty and sixty (see note 10); 2) the people lived under unwholesome conditions, in poverty and misery, the man in abjection, the women in prostitution; 3) the officers plundered, the military was immoral, and drunkenness, brawls, and duels had destroyed half the population. Gayarré, *History of Louisiana*, III, 97.

13. On June 7, 1764, D'Abbadie wrote his observation on the Louisiana situation:

Since 1737, in their pursuit of juggling on the currency, on bills of exchange, and on merchandise in the king's warehouses, they (the Louisiana settlers) have given up the cultivation of the land and the use of tafia (a kind of rum) has stupefied the whole population. D'Abbadie as quoted in Gayarré, *History of Louisiana*, II, 104-105.

took over the colony, population did increase considerably by emigration from the Alabamons (14) and Illinois districts and from Nova Scotia. Between January 1, and May 13, 1765, some 300 Acadians were sent by the French officials in New Orleans to form settlements in the Attakapas and Opelousas districts. Many of these were destined for the Dauterive grant in the vicinity of present-day St. Martinville. (15) In time, others settled above and below the Dauterive grant and by 1771-1772 had sufficiently established themselves to ask for orders of survey and request titles to their lands from the newly installed Spanish regime. (16)

Although its halfhearted attempt at occupying the new possession proved to be somewhat abortive, Spain's first governor, the unsuccessful Antonio de Ulloa, did remain in the colony long enough to offer homesteads to the Germans and to grant lands and supplies to the Acadians who had been arriving in small groups since 1765. (17) It was, however, Inspector General Alexandro O'Reilly, Ulloa's successor, whose Ordinance of 1770 set the official immigration and land policies which, basically, did not change through the remainder of the Spanish period. Briefly stated, this ordinance granted tracts of six to eight arpents fronting on a river or bayou and forty arpents in depth, more or less, "according to the means of the cultivator," and required that the new settler "occupy the land," "enclose" within three years the whole front of his land which "shall be cleared and shall meet the requirements relative to roads and levees." (18)

One of the regulations in O'Reilly's proclamation concerned the Attakapas District, where grants of a league square were authorized. Where the land was less than a league in depth, the grant was to be two leagues in front with a half league depth. But no grant of forty-two arpents in front and depth was authorized to any person who was not owner of one hundred head of tamed, horned cattle, a few horses and sheep, and two slaves. All cattle were required to be branded by the owner at the age of eighteen months, and all older, unbranded cattle were unclaimable.

All grants were to be made in the king's name by the governor of the province, who appointed a surveyor to fix boundaries, both in front and in depth, in the presence of the judge of the district and the two adjoining neighbors, and prescribed the *procès-verbal* which was to

14. The Alabamons were those Frenchman living in the Mobile area. Having been displaced by the British takeover of all former French territory east of the Mississippi by the Treaty of Paris (1763), they sought to join their fellow countrymen in Louisiana as the soldiers and their families from the Illinois District were doing.

15. Sometime between February 25 and May 25, 1765, Charles Philippe Aubry, acting governor of Louisiana, allowed the Acadians to go Attakapas, "the broad grasslands of which were conducive to cattin production." The Acadians' role as ranchers was assured on April 15, 1765, when chiefs agreed to raise cattle on shares for Antoine Bernard Dauterive, a retired French military officer and large Attakapas landholder. The exiles, at the end of their six-year contract, would receive not only half of the herd's increase, but also the land grant which Dauterive and his partner, Edward Mosse, had acquired in 1763. Carl A. Brasseaux, "The Founding of New Acadia: Acadian Life in Louisiana, 1765-1865," Chapter 4, p. 4.

16. See "Land Grants Along the Teche," Part I and Part II.

17. Davis, *Story of Louisiana*, II, 131.

18. Francis P. Burns, "The Spanish Land Laws of Louisiana," *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, XI (1928), 561.

be made. The surveyor was to make three copies of the survey—one for the office in the Cabildo, another for the office of the governor, and a third for the grantee. (19)

Thus, through his proclamations, O'Reilly, who had been vested with unbounded powers of legislation, prescribed the manner in which all future concessions of land in the colony should be made. Illustrative of the manner in which a Spanish land grant was perfected in accordance with his regulations, is the following claim:

The legal representatives of Narcisse Carrier claim a tract of land. . . . In this claim the following documents have been filed:

(a) The requete of said Narcisse Carrier, dated at Opelousas, Nov. 24, 1777, soliciting a grant of the above described tract of land.

(b) The certificate of the commandant, Chevalier de Clouet, dated Nov. 25, 1777, stating that the land petitioned for was of the domain.

(c) The order of survey by Governor Gálvez, dated New Orleans, Feb. 26, 1778, conceding the said land as solicited by the petitioner and ordering the commandant to fix the boundaries of said land.

(d) The return or certificate of the commandant, Chevalier de Clouet, stating that he had fixed boundaries in the presence of Narcisse Carrier and the neighbors, dated June 23, 1778.

(e) The patent or title in form by Governor de Gálvez to said Narcisse Carrier, dated at New Orleans, June 23, 1781, for the above-described land.

This claim is founded upon a complete Spanish grant, the most authentic and complete that is known—It is therefore recommended for confirmation. (20)

O'Reilly remained in the colony for only six months. He had come to Louisiana with his successor, Don Luis de Unzaga y Armezaga, whom he placed in authority after the

19. François Xavier Martin, *History of Louisiana* (1827-1829; reprint ed., New Orleans, 1963), pp. 213-214.

This regulation was intended to help settle the many disputes over boundaries and the numerous complaints concerning the large land "grabs" received as favors from the governors and intendants of the district. As a result of this decree and another decree concerning the large tracts of lands purchased from Indians, all land grants and purchases from Indians were restricted to one league square. Any land over that amount reverted to the royal domain. Three settlers along the Teche who were affected by these regulations were Louis Pellerin, Gabriel Fusilier de la Cleire, and Bernard Deuteriva. See map, "Land Grants Along the Teche," Part I.

20. *American State Papers, Public Land Series*, 9 vols. (Washington, 1834), IV, 506.

This grant, when confirmed by the Board of Commissioners, would be classified as an A grant.

reorganization of the colony was complete. Unzaga, within a short time, won the admiration and respect of the colonists with his mild manners and conciliatory efforts. (21) When he left the colony, a colony "prosperous beyond all experience," Colonel Don Bernardo de Gálvez took his place. He, too, won the hearts of the people with kindness and love of justice. One of his chief interests was encouragement of immigration, and his years as governor proved to be boom years. (22)

Colonel Estevan Miro was appointed governor on July 14, 1785. He had a quiet but progressive governorship which "prompted many Louisianians to compare him to Governor Unzaga." To further increase the colony's population, he offered prospective settlers land, and soon immigrants began arriving from France, Spain, and the Canary Islands. Acadians continued to settle along the lower Teche, and along Bayou Lafourche. Americans received land grants in the Opelousas District and other areas, and after the Santo Domingo insurrection of 1791, numerous white and some free Negro planters migrated to Louisiana. (23)

Don Francisco Luís Hector, baron de Carondelet, was appointed governor of Louisiana, January 1, 1792. He gave the colony a strong and businesslike administration and greatly assisted the growth of population (24) by making extensive land grants, some of which have figured in the history of land litigation in Louisiana. (25) The next governor, Don Manuel Gayoso de Lemos, appointed August 1, 1797, was almost completely occupied with problems of immigration. Gayoso was liberal with land grants, and he continued Carondelet's policy of encouraging the *empresario* system through which individuals received extensive land grants on which to settle large numbers of families. He also issued a set of instructions containing eighteen articles to commandants of the posts of the province for the admission of new settlers. (26)

21. Davis, *Story of Louisiana*, p. 101.

Apparently Unzaga found many of the Acadians, who had come during Ulloa's administration and had settled on the Teche, without titles. Examination of the land grant maps will point out the several groups of land grants issued by Unzaga on the same date.

22. Spanish, Britishers, American loyalists, and even a few Frenchmen came to the colony. Gálvez promised each new settler five arpents of land fronting a river or bayou as far back as a man and his family could clear, cultivate, or turn into pasture land. Each family was to receive supplies for a year and "an axe, a hoe, a scythe or sickle, a spade, two bams, a cock, and a pig of two months with which to establish a household which will provide them a living." *Ibid.*, p. 110.

It should be noted here that although Gálvez was largely responsible for attempting to bring Spanish settlers to Louisiana, all except his New Iberia effort failed.

23. *Ibid.*, pp. 120-121.

24. *Ibid.*, p. 126.

25. Burns, "Spanish Land Laws of Louisiana," 562.

26. Martin, *History of Louisiana*, p. 216.

The most important of these instructions stipulated that if a stranger was not a farmer, nor a married man, nor possessed of any property, he had to be a settler for four years before being allowed to obtain land. Every new settler filling the requirements and married was to receive 200 arpents of land plus fifty additional arpents for each child he brought with him, and he had to prove that the wife he brought with him was his lawful wife. By the end of the third year of settlement, the new settler had to have in cultivation at least two arpents of land for every hundred. Grants were made so that no land was left in between. *Ibid.*

The most comprehensive set of land grant laws issued by the Spanish government are those contained in the regulations of Don Bonaventure Morales, intendant *ad interim*. This set of regulations, embodying the proclamation of O'Reilly and consisting of thirty-eight articles was promulgated by Morales July 17, 1799, and issued "in order that all those who wish to get lands may know in what manner they are to ask for them. . . ." (27)

After the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, one of the first steps taken toward clarifying and registering land titles in the new territory was an Act of Congress, March 26, 1804. This act nullified any land grants made but not occupied subsequent to October 1, 1800, and nullified all land grants subsequent to December 20, 1803. The act also nullified any grant which exceeded 640 acres, or one mile square. (28) In 1807 the United States government required the refiling of all land claims and the return of all surveys and plats for the purpose of investigation and recertification. (29) On March 3, 1807, another act of Congress confirmed the land title to any settler who had been in undisputed possession for ten years prior to 1803, and which did not exceed 2,000 acres. (30) In 1812, the federal government confirmed land holdings in the new state of Louisiana and registered lands which had been granted by the French and Spanish governments, sold or transferred, or continually occupied for more than ten years. Titles were confirmed or not confirmed by the Board of Commissioners according to the classification in which they were placed. These classes, closely defined in a report from the Register of Land Office and the Receiver of Public Moneys, are outlined as follows:

27. American State Papers, V, 731.

After the Louisiana Purchase, so much discussion came up in Congress in regard to acts of confirmation based on Spanish land claims, a resolution was offered in the Senate, calling upon the president to communicate to Congress any information he might have concerning the authority of Morales and Carondelet to dispose of Spanish lands in Louisiana prior to 1803. *Ibid.*, III, 487.

One of the articles in Morales' set of regulations has been used to clarify claims for double concessions (i. e., the first forty arpents in depth fronting the bayou or river plus the second forty arpents in depth beyond). In dealing with cases based on such claims, the United States Supreme Court cited government recognition of the double concession by reason that the Spanish government, in its regulations for building levees to protect the first forty arpents during flooding, extended to those owners the right to enter a claim for the land in the rear of the first forty arpents. See *Jourdon vs Borrett*, 4 How., [45 U.S.], 169-180.

This claim is designated as a pre-emption for which settlers were required to enter a *bona fide* claim (i. e., a Spanish grant or warrant of survey). In rejecting the claim of Mme Jean Millet to 21 arpents of back land, the United States Board of Commissioners for confirming or rejecting land claims stated:

According to the laws, customs, and usages of the Spanish Government, no front proprietor by any act of his own, could acquire a right to land further back than the ordinary depth of forty arpents; and although the Spanish Government has invariably refused to grant the land to any other than the front proprietor, yet nothing short of a grant or an order of survey from the Governor could confer a title or right to the land."

American State Papers, II, 393, No. 8.

This was a standard statement used by the commissioners in rejecting a claim not based upon a Spanish grant or warrant of survey.

28. U. S. Statutes, Eighth Congress, First session, 1804, Chapter XXXVIII, p. 287.

29. Act of Congress, March 3, 1807.

30. Burns, "Spanish Land Laws of Louisiana," 551.

Class 1 (A) will comprise claims held under complete patents under unquestionable authenticity which have been filed with the Register previous to the dissolution of the Board of Commissioners appointed for the purpose of ascertaining and adjusting titles and claims of land.

Class 2 (B) will comprise claims founded on authentic orders of survey conceded by the Spanish government of Louisiana, which, with or without proof of occupancy, ought, in the opinion of said Register and Receiver, to be confirmed.

Class 3 (C) will comprise claims founded on requêtes, approved and sanctioned by the Spanish government of Louisiana, but from which transfers of title bearing date previous to the change of government, and which, whether occupied or not, by proof of occupancy, ought in the opinion of the Register to be confirmed.

Class 4 (D) will comprise lands unsupported by any requête under the former government of Louisiana, but which from regular transfers of title, bearing date anterior to the transfer of government, before the authority competent to judge, and whose duty it was to decide the validity of the title of the seller whether supported or not by evidence of occupancy, ought, in the opinion of the Register to be confirmed.

Class 5 (E) . . . lands which have been occupied or possessed ten consecutive years previous to December 20, 1803, ought, in the opinion of the Register and Receiver to be confirmed for the quantity of land within ascertained limits provided the same shall not exceed 2,000 acres, pursuant to the Act of Congress, March 3, 1807.

Class 6 (F) . . . land on which settlements had been made prior to October 1, 1800, and inhabited from that date by persons over the age of twenty-one years, or heads of families, and not claiming or holding in their own right, grants or concessions for other lands from the French or Spanish governments, ought in the opinion of the Register to be confirmed pursuant to the first section of the Act of Congress, April 21, 1806, for the quantity claimed, not exceeding one mile square or 640 acres.

Class 7 (G) . . . claims founded on occupancy subsequent to October 1, 1800 and previous to April 12, 1814, or claims founded on occupancy commenced previous to Oct. 1, 1800, by persons holding or having other lands in their own names in Louisiana under French concessions or Spanish grants, and which do not come within the purview of classes 5 and 6, ought not to be confirmed in the opinion of the Register and Receiver, the right of pre-emption to the extent of one hundred-sixty acres (a quarter of a section) being secured by the settler by the Act of Congress, April 14, 1814.

Class 8 (H) . . . claims which are accompanied by no document or title date anterior to December 20, 1803, nor proof of occupancy and cultivation prior to April, 1814, ought not, in the opinion of the Register and Receiver to be confirmed.

Class 9 (I) . . . claims for land occupied as vacheries with or without prior occupancy to April 12, 1814, ought not, in the opinion of the Register and Receiver to be confirmed.

Class 10 (K) . . . claims of land purchased from the Indians or tribes whose sales not having been ratified by any government of Louisiana are deemed null and void in the opinion of the Register and Receiver and ought not to be confirmed.

Class 11 (L) . . . comprises claims for land founded on documents of title suspected to be counterfeit or fraudently obtained, ought, in the opinion of the Register and Receiver, not to be confirmed and their claims found on occupancy should be discredited. (31)

These regulations set down by the Register and Receiver of land claims were quite explicit, Class A (direct land grants) and Class B (settlement and occupancy within the prescribed dates) were certified and returned without question to the claimants. Other claims were evaluated on their own merits and judged according to the regulations set down by the various acts of the Congress of the United States. But the chaos resulting from the unfounded or conflicting claims that had existed many years prior to December 20, 1803, required many years to solve, some claims still being in litigation at the end of the nineteenth century.

Land surveys ordered by the congressional acts of 1807, 1812, and 1814 indicate that many land grants were in the hands of the heirs of the original grantees or in the names of new owners when their titles were certified by the Board of Commissioners of the Western Territory of Orleans. Survey maps indicate all Class A and Class B titles as well as those claims which, according to the regulations, fell into classes 3, 4, 5, and 6. The map series, "Land Grants Along the Teche," which begins with this issue of the *Gazette*, shows only the original grantees of French concessions and Spanish patents as ascertained in the *American State Papers* and the records of the Louisiana Land Office. The maps also indicate the dates of the grants (if available), the authority under whom they were issued, and the approximate acreage in each grant.

31. These decisions and opinions for the revision of Congress on claims to land were filed with the Register pursuant to the Acts of Congress, entitled "An act giving further time for registering claims to land in the Western District of the Territory of Orleans," passed March 10, 1812, and the act entitled "An Act of Congress giving further time for registering land claims in the Eastern and Western Territories of Orleans," now state of Louisiana, passed Feb. 27, 1813. *American State Papers*, III, 172.

APPENDIX

The following document is indicative of the manner in which a concession of land was petitioned for and was granted by a French governor of the Province of Louisiana:

To Monsieur D'Abbadie, commissary general of Marine, and Commandant for the King of the province of Louisiana

Louis Pellerin has the honor to pray you, saying that, on the permission you have given to settle the lands of Opelousas and Attakapas, he decided to make an establishment in the quarter of Opelousas for a vacherie and culture, for which

reason he begs of you to be so good as to grant him the concession of a prairie of a league and a half in depth southwest and northeast, the front of which is three-quarters of a league southeast and northwest, and likewise the cane and wood which surround the said prairie for half a league on every side, according to the plat annexed. He has to represent to you, further, that he has four children; that he intends to carry them as well as Madame Pellerin, his wife, to prove to you the solidity and promptitude with which he intends to work at the said concession, which he has the honor to solicit, and which he expects you will be pleased to grant him. He begs of you also to give to the said concession the name of Martha.

Pellerin, July 1, 1764

§ § § § §

Jean-Jacques Blaise Dabbadie, director general, and commandant for the King in Louisiana, on the demand that has been made to us by Mr. Pellerin, reformed officer of the troops of this colony, to concede to him a prairie, situated at the quarter of Opelousas, having sixty-three arpents front southeast and southwest, as well as some other lands where there is cane and wood, the whole mentioned in the requête preceding, conformably to the plat which has been made, and is here annexed, and seen and signed by us, and on which he has made an establishment that he named St. Martha: We, in virtue of the power given to us by His Majesty, and seeing the contents of said requête, have granted, and do grant by these presents, the said prairie, and other land such as they are mentioned possessions of these parts, in which case Mr. Pellerin, as well as his heirs or assigns, may hereafter enjoy and dispose in all property as a thing belonging to him, under the said name of St. Martha, under the condition that he shall continue the said establishment; that, in one year from this day, he shall put them in full value, and report, in default of which, the said term being elapsed, they shall be re-united to the domain of His Majesty, who may dispose of it as if this present concession had not been granted; and, on the condition to pay such impositions on said land as may hereafter be established in this colony, reserving, besides, for His Majesty all timber necessary for the construction of forts, magazines, or other works that may hereafter be ordered, and also for repairing of his vessels at any time when necessary; also the lands necessary for highways and fortifications. As to the courses which are to limit the said prairie and other lands, they shall be regulated by boundaries which shall be planted for that purpose, of which procès-verbal shall be made and annexed to these presents, after being recorded in the records of concession. Given at New Orleans, under the seal of our arms, and countersigned by our secretary, J. Dabbadie, by my Lord,

Duvergé
July 2, 1764

American State Papers, III, 100.

The following document is an example of the manner in which a Class 1A title was confirmed. This certificate is labeled A 101.

It is hereby certified that William C. Maquelle of the County of Attakapas is confirmed in his claim to a tract of one thousand eight superficial arpents equal to eight hundred fifty-two and 80 one-hundredths American acres, being twelve arpents front by a depth of forty-two arpents on both sides of Bayou Teche, bounded on the northwest by land granted to John Trahan, on the southeast by land claimed by Roger Valcour and Joseph Landry, and on the other side by vacant land, situated in the County of Attakapas, in townships no. nine and ten South in Ranges 6 and 7 East, and claimed by virtue of a grant under the authority of the Spanish government to Jean Bérard, bearing the date of the twentieth day of June in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-one, under the signature of Louis de Unzaga, the governor of the province of Louisiana, having such forms and marks, natural and artificial, as are represented in the plat thereof, returned by the principal Deputy Surveyor of the said district; Wherefore, agreeable to the provision of an Act of Congress, passed the third day of March, 1807, entitled "An Act respecting the Claims to Land in the Territories of Orleans and Louisiana," the claimant is entitled to a patent from the United States, for the above tract of land, unless the same shall be found to include either a lead mine or a salt spring. This certificate being filed with the Register of the Land Office of the said District within twelve months from the date hereof, shall entitle the claimant to the Certificate of the said Register, on which the patent shall issue.

Given under our hand at Opelousas Church this 16th day of April in the year eighteen hundred and eleven, and in the thirty-fifth day of the Independence of the United States.

(Signed) Wm. Garrard, Sevin Wailer,
and Gideon Fitz

Register State Land Office of Louisiana, Southwest District Claims, Roll 255-256.

The following document is an example of confirmation of a claim based on settlement and occupancy. It is designated as Claim B 1591.

Deputy Register No. 145

Attakapas

Charlotte Broutin of the county of Attakapas is confirmed in her claim to a tract of land containing one hundred sixty superficial arpents, equal to one hundred thirty-four American acres, founded on settlement and occupancy by Madame William Andre and others for and upwards of ten consecutive years previous to the 20th of December, 1803. Situated in the County of Attakapas on the left bank of Bayou Teche bounded above by Mr. Fontenette, and below by Mr. Landry, etc. (Survey plat states that survey was made in the presence of Mr. Marin Lenormand, present claimant and no objections were made thereat by any persons.)

Register of State Land Office of Louisiana, Southwest District Claims, Roll 256.



RETURN TO MINTMERE

It's like turning back the hands of time to the days when plantation owners knew steamboats on the Teche by the sounds of their whistles, and young ladies in billowing skirts waved handkerchiefs from the galleries or crossed the lawns to the landing to see what fortunes might meet them there. . . .

That morn fog lay heavy over the stream and long wisps of moss dripped from the weary live oaks. I stood, peering through the grayness, (It was a dream, you know.) when suddenly the sun burned through, and, as if by magic, a carpet of green rolled up from the bayou bank, and there on the ridge stood Mintmere. She was young and proud again, all shining white with black wrought iron lace accenting her broad front gallery.



But it was all in a dream, for Mintmere is more than a hundred twenty years old, the waters of the Teche and the charming old place having shared the inevitable—the passage of time and the ravages of men and the elements.

Mintmere, built by Stanley C. and Millington M. Hartman of St. Mary Parish between 1857-1859, stands on property acquired from the heirs of Francois César Boutte who received it as a Spanish grant. The property at the time of the Hartman purchase was just inside the St. Mary Parish line. In 1860, the Hartman brothers sold the

plantation (three arpents wide by forty arpents deep on the west side of Bayou Teche and three arpents wide by four deep on the east side) to Evert Bancker Smedes.

Smedes died in 1861. His widow, Sarah Cede Smedes, with several of her children remained on the plantation for the next twenty years. In 1881 she sold the place to William S. Satterfield, a New Iberia businessman, married to Eloise de Generes of Avoyelles Parish. For the next twenty-one years the Satterfields occupied the house, renaming it "Belhaven Place," and cultivating the plantation. January 3, 1902, the house passed into the hands of Satterfield's brother-in-law, Edward C. de Generes, who kept it only eleven months, selling it to Richard S. McMahon, another New Iberia businessman, on November 21, 1902.

On July 23, 1917, McMahon sold Belhaven Place and property surrounding it to Sam Caulking and the remainder of the plantation on the west side to Philip Conrad. The Caulking family occupied the place until the early '40s, after which time the property passed through several ownerships, consequently suffering alteration, deterioration, neglect, and even abandonment.

But then the dream resumes, when at the end of 1976, Dr. Roy P. Boucvalt purchased the place and began a lengthy renovation and restoration of the house and subsequently making it his home.



Mintmere, a Greek Revival-style plantation house built 1857-1859, faces Bayou Teche a mile downstream from the heart of New Iberia. Raised seven feet above the ground on brick piers, the house has a circular sewn cypress frame still in excellent condition. With its ornamented window pediments on the front gallery, motifs on end doors of the ten-by-forty center hall, and the pretentious facade of the three-sided, galleried court at the rear, the house has architectural rather than historical significance.



NOW again I can open my eyes to the gentle dignity of a house almost as it was in the old days, and I can close them again to behold in my mind springtime at Mintmere.



The had dream ends with a restored Mintmore (opposite). Alterations to accomodate apartments, neglect through disinterest, and vandalism had turned an architectural gem into a nightmarish ruin. Three-sided court in rear of the house is between two wings on the main structure. The full aedicule motifs with trancon and sidelights on rear door is original and identical to front door. The heavy posts with moulded capitals are the same as those on the five bay front gallery. The flower and trullage-design cast iron work on rear gallery is also original.





Through ancient oak and bare pecan trees, Mintmere reappears on a misty winter morning, the only change from the original being the roof line. This was first a low hip masked all around by a cornice.





Wallpaper covered the plastered walls, linoleum, the red heart pine floors. Every room had a fireplace, the marble mantels of which were stripped away by vandals. Thirteen-foot ceilings and seven foot doors regain their elegance: the broad center hall has a new chandelier; a mahogany armoire complements a Signoret bed. Only the past understands what Eloise Satterfield meant when she scratched, probably with a diamond ring, the word *L'Esperance* below her name on a window pane of the front parlor. Ironically, that pane was destroyed in the renovation work.



Rear view of Mintmere after restoration shows courtyard with outside steps removed. A cypress stair now rises from below to the back gallery. The closed-



in front gallery shows the details of original front wall facing, cypress window pediments, and posts with moulded capitals.

A ROAD FOR ATTAKAPAS

By Glenn R. Conrad

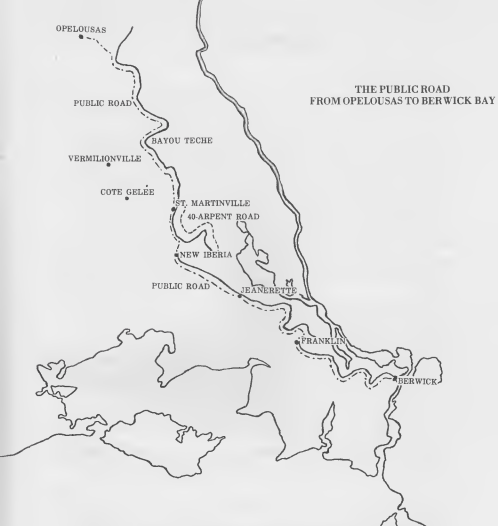
When one recalls the modes of travel in early Attakapas, thoughts usually turn to the steamboats which plied the Teche and Vermilion or to the railroads which succeeded the paddleboat era. It is rare indeed to hear or read of road travel in Acadiana during the century after statehood. In the last fifty years, however, that situation has rapidly changed and today South Louisiana motorists certainly have no dearth of roads, highways and superhighways to speed them on their way. Still, as they cross the prairies and bayou country of the region, how many realize that the ancestor of all our Attakapas highways is the road which parallels the Teche from the Opelousas area to Berwick. For nearly a century and a half this road has served as a tangible link in the history of Acadiana.

In all likelihood there was no road, certainly no public road, paralleling Bayou Teche during the first two decades of Louisiana statehood. This is not to say, however, that a traveller on horseback could not proceed overland from Vermilionville to Opelousas to Berwick Bay; but, to do so was to overcome many hazards, not the least of which was an outgrowth of settlement patterns. When the pioneers moved into the region, the bayou was regarded as the only route of public transportation and communication. Therefore, to allow everyone access to this route, all farms along the waterway had long and narrow boundaries. While such a settlement pattern proved quite feasible in a world of waterborne traffic, the resulting fences between farms made overland travel difficult if not virtually impossible, at least in the area of the bayou ridge. The fences contributed not only to numerous quarrels between landowners and travellers but also to frequent differences of opinion between neighbors attempting to cross from one farm to another.

As time passed other factors arose to emphasize the demand for public roads. Early among these was the need of ranchers to drive cattle from the prairies of Southwest Louisiana to steamboat docks along navigable streams. Most often this meant traversing densely settled, fenced terrain. In the New Iberia area, for example, before the coming of the public roads ranchers on the prairies south and west of the community actually had to buy rights-of-way to the Teche in order to get their cattle to steamboats and to market. Perhaps the most obvious of these outlets is that portion of the right-of-way from Peebles Plantation to Bayou Teche which is still evident along Jefferson Terrace from Admiral Doyle to Highway 90.

Another factor contributing to the establishment of public roads was that the Teche above St. Martinville was not navigable for steamboats; thus, a traveller going to the upper Teche had to arrange for private transportation of one sort or another. A factor which cannot be considered for the early development of a road system in Attakapas is mail delivery. Throughout the region mail was moved by water and post offices were located on the banks of the many waterways.

The issue of public roads for the Attakapas surfaced in the state legislature in the 1830s. The initial step toward their establishment was taken on March 21, 1833, when Governor A. B. Roman signed an act providing that anyone who wished "to enclose more than five arpents beyond an ordinary depth of forty arpents already enclosed, shall be bound to furnish a road of sixty feet between the first and second depth, which road shall be kept in repair at the expense of the parish." (1) This 1833 act had importance for posterity beyond its immediate



impact of creating public roads in Attakapas, for it placed the burden of upkeep on the parish and thereby removed this responsibility from the landowner. Moreover, the act gave rise to the designation "Forty Arpent Road" and even, in some areas, the "Eighty Arpent Road." Today, probably the best example of a forty arpent road is the one on the east side of the Teche from St. Martinville to Belle Place, just south of Loreauville.

The act of 1833 did not establish a road paralleling the Teche, and, since the banks of the bayou were heavily settled, it resulted that most overland traffic, whether local or long distance, would tend to move along a line paralleling the stream. In March, 1836, the

legislature passed and Governor E. D. White signed an act providing that henceforth "any proprietor . . . on the shores of Bayou Teche [in St. Martin Parish] shall be bound to deliver a road known as the public road, and the same shall be permanent." Moreover, the act provided that the police jury appoint annually three commissioners whose duty it would be to lay out the road. (2) A year later, the legislature amended the 1836 act to reemphasize the need for a public road at "every depth of forty arpents." (3) Meanwhile, in the legislature of 1835 an act was passed providing for the extension of the Public Road of St. Martin Parish to the parishes of St. Mary and Lafayette. (4) Four years later, the legislature extended the developing road system to St. Landry Parish. (5) It was now possible to travel by the Public Road from Opelousas to Berwick Bay.

The first alternate route to that paralleling the Teche was created to link Vermilionville in Lafayette Parish with the existing road system. Beginning in St. Martinville the road cut through several plantations to Bayou Tortue, to Côte Gelée, reaching the Lafayette Escarpment in the area of present-day Broussard, then ran northwestward to Vermilionville. (6) From that settlement the road pushed northward to Opelousas. This road, from New Iberia to St. Martinville via Lafayette to Opelousas, would become the stage route in the decade before the Civil War and until the coming of the railroad in the late 1870s and early 1880s.

Oddly enough, the present link between Broussard and New Iberia (State Route 182) was not seriously considered for overland traffic until the end of the nineteenth century. During the Civil War there was a trail from Pinhook Bridge southward around the western side of Spanish Lake to New Iberia, but it was not until after the construction of the railroad that this route was developed as a linking route from New Iberia to Lafayette.

This nineteenth-century highway system prevailed, with bridge and surface improvements, until the arrival of the automobile as a popular means of conveyance. At that time the impetus for road change and improvement came from the federal government. In 1916 Congress passed the Federal Aid Road Act and in 1921 the Federal Highway Act. The apparent motivation for the 1921 act was a desire on the part of the federal government to link the road systems of the several states. The law, limiting federal participation to seven percent of the public road mileage of the state, was designed primarily to link cities and towns and provide state line connections. (7)

The passage of the Federal Highway Act coincided nicely with the adoption of Louisiana's Constitution of 1921. The constitution provided that there should be established and maintained a system of state highways. In November, 1921, the legislature implemented

2. Acts . . . Second Session of the Twelfth Legislature (1838), pp. 118-19.

3. Louisiana Acts (1837), p. 20.

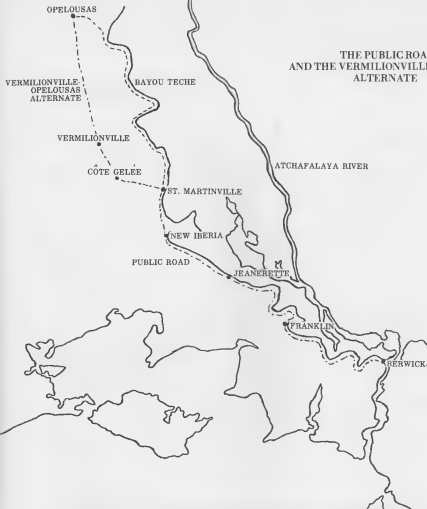
4. Louisiana Acts (1835), p. 211.

5. Louisiana Acts (1839), pp. 5-6.

6. This is presently State Route 96, popularly known as the Terrace Road.

7. A. E. Johnson, ed., *A Story of the Beginning, Purposes, Growth, Activities and Achievements of the American Association of State Highway Officials* (Washington, D. C., 1965), p. 139.

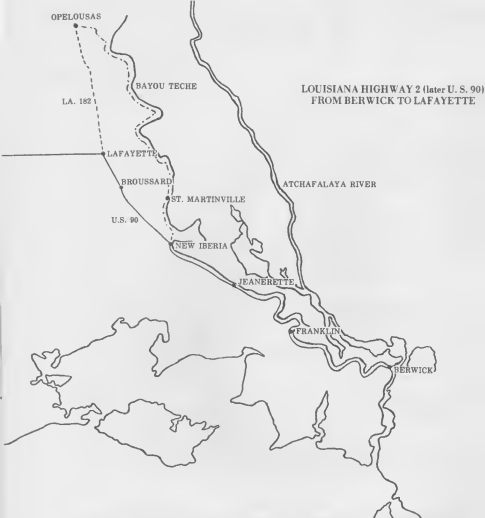
THE PUBLIC ROAD
AND THE VERMILIONVILLE-OPELOUSAS
ALTERNATE



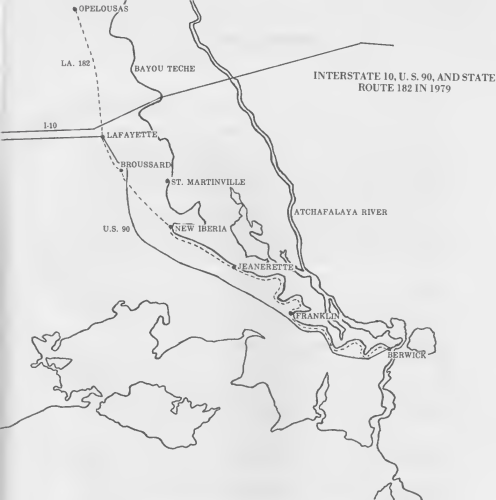
this provision by Act 95 which created and numbered a state highway system. (8) As a result, the old Public Road from Opelousas to Berwick was divided into two segments and assigned numbers. The segment from Lafayette to Opelousas became part of State Route 5, while the segment from Lafayette to Berwick became part of State Route 2. The older segment of the Public Road from New Iberia through St. Martinville, Breaux Bridge, and Arnaudville to Port Barre was designated Route 25. (9)

8. Louisiana Acts (1921), pp. 181-201.

9. *Ibid.*



Work on the national system of highways continued apace after the Federal Highway Act of 1921. Shortly thereafter it became apparent that interstate highways would have to be numbered and that there would have to be a national system of traffic direction. As a consequence, in 1924 a highway numbering system and a uniform directional system were adopted. The numbering system for interstate highways assigned odd numbers to north-south routes from the Atlantic to the Pacific and even numbers to east-west highways from north to south. The uniform directional system produced such things as the ever-proliferating traffic signal and the several road signs of various shapes and colors to alert



motorists. (10)

As the new interstate system pushed across the country, the Louisiana Highway Commission (established by Act 95 of 1921) designated that the Southern National Highway, later called the Old Spanish Trail, between Los Angeles and St. Augustine, Florida, would traverse Louisiana over the route of Highway 2. (11) Thus, the segment of the old Public

10. *The Story of the Beginning*, pp. 139-40.

11. In the early days of the national highway system, there was a tendency to name as well as number highways. Thus, U.S. 80 in North Louisiana was known as the Dixie Overland Highway, and U.S. 90 was

Road between Lafayette and Berwick was designated a United States highway. Together with the segment from Lafayette to the Texas line and from Berwick to the Mississippi border, this route became designated U. S. Highway 90.

With the ever-increasing popularity of the automobile and a developing American fad for touring, it was not long before states began paving highways in the national system. U. S. 90 between Lafayette and Franklin was paved in 1930 and 1931, and concrete was laid between Franklin and Berwick in 1932. Later that year, the Louisiana Highway Commission reported that the highway was paved through the state. (12) In the meantime, State Route 25 from New Iberia to St. Martinville and State Route 5 from Lafayette northward toward Opelousas about eight miles were paved. (13)

The Depression and World War II slowed highway construction in Louisiana and across the United States, but, with the end of the war, motor traffic grew by leaps and bounds and the old Attakapas region joined the rest of the country in seeking bigger and better highways. In the decade following World War II, therefore, most state highways were paved, but little was done to accomodate the constantly growing east-west flow of traffic from Lafayette to Berwick.

In the late 1950s and during the 1960s the nation's highway system underwent revolutionary change. The Interstate Highway System was devised and rapidly spread across the land. In Acadiana, the segment of old State Route 5 between Lafayette and Opelousas, now rechristened U. S. Highway 167, was relocated and became a four-lane highway. About the same time U. S. 90 between Calumet and Berwick was relocated as a four-lane highway.

During the 1960s and throughout the '70s, the state continued its construction of a four-lane highway from Lafayette to Berwick. On October 23, 1979, the final segment of the highway was opened to traffic between Baldwin and Berwick, thus speeding travellers between Lafayette and Morgan City in little more than an hour. (14) Today, the old Public Road, winding its way through the Teche country from Berwick to Opelousas, has been designated State Route 182 and perhaps gratefully accepts its role as a byway; nevertheless, it can still claim the distinction of being the first road for Attakapas.

first called the Southern National Highway and then the Old Spanish Trail. When numbers proved to be more feasible and more popular, the names of the highways were usually dropped.

12. Sixth Biennial Report of the Louisiana Highway Commission (1930-1932), pp. 36-37. Since the paving of the interstate highways was federally subsidized and promoted and was being pursued on a nationwide basis, the long-heard plaudits to Huey Long for paving Louisiana's highways might be somewhat superfluous.

13. Sixth Biennial Report.

14. It is planned that this four-lane highway from Opelousas to Morgan City will become a part of Louisiana's North-South Expressway, linking Shreveport with the southern part of the state.

JOURNAL OF JOHN LANDRETH

*Transcribed and Annotated
by Dennis Gibson*

(Continued from Vol. XIV, No. 4)

January the 20th 1819 about 10AM left mouth of the Alligator Bayou which the South Eastermost point of the Seven Islands and Steered South a little Easterly across the Lake just out side of the mouth of Bayou Alligator in the Lake 4 feet water in about The middle of the Lake 12 feet water. at one PM very likely for rain. Came too and pitched our Tents at an Indian Settlement near the South East End of the Gallows Island along side of the cabbins of an Indian Chief named Postin (1). Rained in the afternoon we stay in our Tent--

January 21st 1819. Soon after Sun Rise left the Indian Chief Postions and Steered across a Beautifull pass or Bayou North North West half a mile to the North East point of three Islands which we collectively call the Navy Commissioners. and separately we call them Rogers; Decature; and Porter

Rogers	325 acres	975 Trees	1462 Tons
Decatures	112 Do	336 Do	672 Do
Porters	52 Do	208 Do	520 Do
<hr/>			
Total	489 acres	1519 Trees	2654 Tons

The Navy Commissioners are three Beautifull Islands Situated lying and being in the grand alias Chetimaches Lake separated from each other by fine large Navigable Bayous; all of which are heavily timbered with fine Live Oak a great part of which are of the first class. The Soil of the very first quality either for the production of Live Oak or for cultivation. these Islands appear to be the constant habitation of the Red Bird and Mocking Birds whose united harmony gives a continual delight to the Ear. the waters round these beautifull Islands are crowded with fowls of the aquatic kind; and abound with fine fish.

Observations on Rogers Island. In company with James Hutton Esquire we Examined the Timber, Soil, and situation of this Island and find it to contain a great deal of valuable Live Oak of the second class from two to five feet in diameter and on an average about three Trees to the acre. The soil of this Island is of the very first quality Rich, high, and good beautifully diversified with Ridges running through it in an Easterly and westerly direction about a hundred yards wide each gently sloping into handsome valleys of about twenty yards wide. The Ridges producing Live Oak; white and Red Oak and the valleys Cypress Gum and Cotton Wood. This would be a delightfull spot for a settlement. from the height of the Land no doubt but good water can be found here and good navigable water all Round the Island which waters abound with Fish and Wild Fowl of various kinds.

January 21st 1819

John Landreth, Sur

Saturday January 23, 1819, got upp early and prepare to leave the Moschetto (2) Islands these Islands are too low for Live Oak and too low for the cultivation of any crop that I am acquainted with except Rice and in Meadows for grass the soil being very Rich if put in proper cultivation I expect would yield plentiful crops of both articles and if the Moschettoes were not too severe upon them this would be a fine country to Raise and fatten black cattle. Hogs also could be raised here very well if the Moschettoes and gnats were not too severe for the young pigs and if the Alligators did not destroy the older Hogs from every appearance last night the Moschittoes and gnats were hard for anything here. at this early season everything bears the appearance of Spring. Flowers in full bloom the maple Tree just putting forth its delightfull Blossom and the Buds of the Gum Tree just bursting forth here we found the delicate little herb, the shamrock so much celebrated in Irish song and in honour of this little herb we name this Island Shamrock Island. this Island is valuable for its shell Banks which from the remains of sundry Lime Kilns I saw here I find they convert into Lime. the whole group of Moschetto Islands are valuable for the great quantities of fine cypress Timber upon them and the great abundance of Tanners bark of different kinds that can be got here. soon after Sun Rise we leave Shamrock Island with all its sweets to be wasted upon the wild Beasts of the woods the Alligators and Moschettoes. about a mile to the South Eastward of Bayou Millum there is a Bayou Running North Easterly which forms another Island. From the mouth of Bayou Millum we Steer South East in water from two five feet. five miles through the Lake Palurd (3) to the mouth of the coup or cut. I have not a doubt but in the course of time and that too within one hundred yards of the Lake Paluard and the Flat or Grassey Lake also will each be made Land from the washings of the Mississippi and its dependant Streams and each form a group of Islands divided by Bayous at present there is every appearance of it we enter the mouth of the coup or cut on a South East half south course in nine feet water The Lands on the Right hand or west side of the cut called Tiger Island. here on Tiger Island near the mouth of the coup or cut is a small settlement in possession Peter Muro (4) a Frenchman formerly a sailor is about sixty years of age has a wife about thirty years of age and two children a boy and a girl quite small the wife a native of Pennsylvania her maiden name Donnelly they have lived here some years and from account have enjoyed good health Muro has in cultivation about six acres which supplies the family with Bread and wholesom Roots and plenty of garden vegetables the old man appears to be industrious he has got some Peach Trees Planted which appears very thriving. he was this Day planting sweet Potatoes his Pear was all but fit to Blossom. his onions and garlic 6 inches high everything looked in a very growing way. their House or rather miserable Hut stands on the top of a high bank of shells nar the Side of the cut the Lands as they extend back from the cut are very low but are a Rich black Soil and very productive. here we got a supply of fresh water tolerably good. on the opposite side of the coup or cut is a small settlement in a possession of a certain Genet Taylor. who from the accounts of Muro and wife is but a very indifferent kind of person and a bad Neighbour The Lands on which Taylor lives is an Island of considerable extent claimed by a Mr. Bowles (5) who lives near Franklin. after getting our water on board we left Muro's Landing and steer through the Cut first South East half South about a quarter of a mile thence South by West about half a mile in fifteen feet Water. thence South South half East about a mile in fifteen feet Water. Several small settlements on each side of the cut but more particularly on the left hand side the Lands are very low generally but the people appear to be prolific for there was several children at almost every House we

passed in front of one small House as we passed there was seven white headed children looking over a fence at us the largest did not appear more than ten or eleven years old and near the end of this reach of the Cut on the left hand Side is a tolerably good looking small House with a considerable clearing around it here on the left hand side of the cut where the Land is not cleared there is some appearances of Live Oak on the right hand side the Lands are very low growth of Timber generally large Cypress interspersed with Myrtle and here and there a small Live Oak. we next steer South by West about half a mile in twelve feet water which brings us to Bayou Buff. the coup or Cut through which we have passed is generally about eighty yards wide and is a very handsome creek or Bayou. now in Bayou Buff we steer South West about half a mile in twenty seven feet water the Land very low on each side some marsh on the right hand side and branch Willow no appearance of Live Oak on either side near the end of this reach on the left hand side there is a small settlement of white people John Henry (6) a Dutchman and Alexander Grasure a Frenchman Living here the Bayou now bears Northwest by North runs about a mile and three quarters in this direction in Eighteen feet water the Bayou about Eighty yards wide on the right hand or North side of the Bayou the Lands very low no appearance of Live Oak at the end of this course a small Bayou on our right which runs about a mile into the Land in a Northerly direction we still continue in Bayou Buff and steer North West half West about half a mile. Eighteen feet water here Mr. Hutton and me went on shore on both Sides of the Bayou and examined the Lands carefully but found no Live Oak worthy of notice; cane in abundance. deer tracks plenty Paraquits numerous and a great store of mushrooms and Moschettoes by the million. at two oclock PM go on Board again and Still Steer along Bayou Buff West about a mile and a half at the end of this distance Bayou Shaffer on our left Running South West toward Berwicks Bay about six miles distant we then Steer Still in Bayou Buff West by North two hundred yards to the dwelling Plantation of the Bryans (7) who claims Tiger Island. here Mr. Cathcart Mr. Hutton and myself went ashore and looked at some Timber which Mr. Bowles had got for the United States the Timber is very fine here we saw Mr. Huttons Mounds. we went and examined the growing Timber found considerable quantity of good Live Oak and it is said there is a great deal on other Island but there the Island being generally very low and the Timber being generally pretty far back a great deal of the best Live Oak Land next the water being cleared that it would be scarch worth getting. but this is the case only on Bayou Buff but no part of Tiger Island can be two miles from navigable water and I should say that good Timber within two miles of Navigable water was very convenient. . . after Staying some time on Shore on Tiger Island we go on Board of our Boat again and Steer out of Bayou Buff West by North half a mile to the Atchafalaya River at this place it being what is called the head of Berwicks Bay. now in Berwicks Bay we Steer West North West three quarters of a mile to a Settlement owned by a Mr. Berwick (8) from whose Ancesters Berwicks Bay took its name here at Mr. Berwicks we went on shore and examined some Indian Mounds as they are called. there is four of these mounds in number which are evidently works of art and apparently much labour has been spent upon them the four forms nearly a square : : at about the distance of sixty yards apart. there being no Record or tradition of the origin or cause of the Raising of these mounds the mind is left to conjecture. when how and for what purpose they originally were raised. the Lands on which these mounds Stands are very low and being all Alluvion (9) were no doubt much lower formerly than they are at present and more subject to inundations there mounds might therefore be Raised as places of Retreat during the overflowing of the waters they have also the appearance of places of security in time of War. the most inter of which Mr. Berwick has converted into a Burying ground and has laid his mother the figure of this mound appears to be a perfect cone and perpendicular height

about one hundred feet. the top or smaller diameter being about one hundred and twenty feet. we staid but a short time on shore got some oranges of Mr. Berwick and soon went aboard of our Boat again and Head up the Atchafalaya or Berwicks Bay North North West two miles to the mouth of the Teche from the mouth of the River Teche the Atchafalaya River runs Round the end of Gallows Island in a North by West direction through the Lake here it separates Gallows Island from Tiger Island--

January 23, 1819 about four o'clock PM entered the mouth of the Teche North West by North one quarter of a mile in fifteen feet water thence West one quarter of a mile to Rentropes Ferry (10) in three fathoms Water where we arrived Just at Sun down. here we intend staying all night Sunday morning January 24th 1819 at Rentropes. Rentrope is a German and has been several years in this country he keeps a tolerably good House for a new country where regular markets is not established and where Supplies cannot at all times be had. here we had milk for our coffee the first we had Seen for some time. here they have a great many domestic Fowls Turkeys and Chickens and here I saw what I have not Seen in this country before three fine hogs in a Sty very fat each of which would weigh two hundred and fifty pound but here few people pretends to make Bacon they generally eat their Hog meat in what they call corn pork. Beef here being their principal dependance which they have very fine in general; Rentrope has a very excellent Kitchen garden and even the cultivation of a few flowers is not neglected here they have cabbage full grown and in a growing State Still here they have Kale and Spinnage in perfection and the finest Parsley Bed I ever saw. the Land here is very fine the grass quite green. white clover abounds here and is at this moment fine Sheep pasture; Rentrope Keeps a Ferry here on the Teche the Ferry Boats are two canoes fixed about three or four feet apart connected by a flat form based upon them upon which Platform they carry Horses or cattle and I am told they either Sail or Row very well and Some of them will carry ten or twelve Horses at a time and they are considered Safe Boats. these Boats Runs from Rentropes on the Teche across the Lakes to the Laforch Canal about thirty miles. the price of Ferriage for a single man four dollars for a man and Horse twelve dollars Rentropes has a Son lives at the Laforch Canal who keeps a Tavern and Boats so that there is Seldom any detention upon either side the time of passing depends upon the wind and the current and takes from Seven or Eight hours to twelve or fifteen here at Rentropes we Rest on Sunday here is all kinds of business going on Carpenters at work carts driving about the Same as any other Day no Respect paid to the Sabath here Rentrope keeps a very good table but his charges like all the Rest in this country are very high. you cannot live in any tolerable Tavern in this country for less than two dollars per Day and Seldom for that.

1900 CENSUS OF NEW IBERIA

(Continued from Vol. XIV, No. 4)

MAIN STREET (cont.)	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
749 ALLRUP, William	July 1845	30	Ala.	Tenn.	Tenn.	Farmer
Clara	May 1847	30	Ireland	(Nat., 1870)		
Otto	May 1887	5	Ala.			
TILSON, Edward	May 1856	5 (Partner)	Indiana	Pa.	Indiana	?
750 BROWN, Charles	Dec. 1867	Wid.	Mo.	Germany	Germany	Fruit Dealer
751 GERSON, Harry	Sept 1865	4	Russia	Russia	Russia	Dry goods dealer
Sarah	Oct. 1875	4	Russia			
752 SUBERBILLE, Gustave	Feb. 1873	2				Dry goods salesman
Louise	May 1877	2				
Bernard	Dec. 1898	5				
Louise	May 1877	5 (Sister)				
BERGERIE, Emelie	Dec. 1857	5 (aunt)				
Leonore	Jan. 1854	5 (aunt)				
SUBERBILLE, Henry	Sept 1889	5 (brother)				Bank clerk
Marie	Nov. 1844	Wid (mother)				
753 MOITY, Leon P.	June 1878	5				Barber
754 TAYLOR, Jerry	Jan. 1861	13	Ala.			Brick mason
Mary	Aug. 1866	13				
Lizzie	Sept 1889	5				
Elah	Apr. 1891	5				
Louise	May 1893	5				
Maxie	Apr. 1895	5				
Jerry, Jr.	June 1898	5				
755 ROBERTSON, George	M.Dec. 1851	24		Tenn.		Fire ins. agent
Belle	Feb. 1859	24	Miss.	S. C.	Miss.	
756 BROUSSARD, Robert	Aug. 1865	1				Politician
Mrs. Robert	Oct. 1877	1		Ky.		
APPLEGATE, Mrs. M. H.	Feb. 1859	Wid. (mother)				
GUIDRY, Leon	Nov. 1867	5				Bookkeeper
757 LYNCH, Hugh	Jan. 1860			Va.	Va.	Steamboat pilot
Mary	Nov. 1863					
Edward	Sept 1885					at school
Mary	Mar. 1888					at school
Ella	Dec. 1890					at school
James	Aug. 1891					
William	May 1895					

EAST SIDE OF BAYOU TECHE--SOUTH OF HORTENSE STREET

ALL SOUTH OF
HORTENSE STREET

	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
1 CALVIN, Andrew	June 1857	7	Ala.	Va.	Ala.	Grocery Clerk
Sallie	Mar. 1872	7				
Andrew	Mar. 1894					
Denzes (?)	Nov. 1845					
9 BOURKE, Joseph	Oct. 1865	13				Day Laborer
(Bourque) Annette	May 1862	13				
Azama	June 1890	S				
Noalie	June 1895	S				
Mary	May 1898					
August	Apr. 1875	S (brother)				Day laborer
Henry	May 1882	(brother)				Day laborer
Marcel	Jan. 1887	(brother)				Day Laborer
11 BECKMAN, Pauline	Aug. 1855	28				Dressmaker
Stephen	Oct. 1885	S				
12 DARCY, Leon	Feb. 1866	27			France	Hostler
Eliza	Oct 1864	27				
John H.	Jan. 1874	S				Day Laborer
Julius	June 1879	S				Machinist
Leonard	Mar. 1883	S				Day Laborer
Lillian	Mar. 1884	S				
Emma	Dec. 1893	S				
15 BARROW, Albert	Sept 1863	13				Farmer
Laurence	Aug. 1867	13				
Virginia	Jan. 1886	S				at school
Rita	Dec. 1889	S				at school
Leonard	Dec. 1891	S				
Nolan	Nov. 1894	S				
HEBERT, Clemence	Nov. 1872	S				
16 DeGRAVELLE, Camille	Nov. 1864	5		France		Sugar Boiler
Carrie	Nov. 1871	5				
HUDSON, Betty	Sept 1878	S (sister-in-law)				
17 BLUMENTHAL, Ferdinand	Aug 1862	4		Germany	Germany	Dry goods merchant
EVA	Aug. 1878	4				
Mildred	Dec. 1897					

SOUTH OF HORTENSE		Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
18	DAVIS, Jacob	Mar. 1843	29	Russia (Nat., 1863)			?
	Elise	Sept. 1851	29	France (Nat., 1866)			
	David	Mar. 1871	8				Wholesale Grocer
	Esther	Mar. 1878	8				
	Alphonse	Jan. 1880	8				Grocery Clerk
	Leah	Feb. 1882	8				
	Joseph	Dec. 1883	8				Salesman
	Nathan	Feb. 1887	8				at school
	Pearl	Aug. 1888	8				at school
	Sadie	Apr. 1890	8				at school
19	DUPUY, Jules	Jan. 1874	4				Insurance agent
	Carrie	Feb. 1875	4		Russia	France	
	Jules, Jr.	Dec. 1896					
20	BROUSSARD, Guernar ?	Jan. 1867	7				?
	Bertha	Aug. 1872	7				
	Viola	Oct. 1894	8				
	Alfred	July 1896	8				
	Gladys	Aug. 1898	8				
	George	May 1883	8 (brother				Salesman
21	SAUCIER, John R.	Jan. 1866	4	Miss.	France	Miss.	Mechanical eng.
	Jeanette	Mar. 1875	4				
	Mildred	Oct. 1899	8				
	COUDROY, Adolph	Aug. 1879	8				Grocery clerk
22	CHRISTIANA, Ben	May 1845	6	England	Va.	N. Y.	Contractor/builder
	Susan	Aug. 1853	Miss.	Va.	Miss.		
	Benjamin	Aug. 1895	8				
	McCORD, Bertie	Feb. 1878	8 (stepdaughter)				Schoolteacher
23	SAPIENZA, Paint ?	July 1858	2	Italy (Nat., 1889)			Fruit dealer
	Junta	May 1878	2	Italy (Nat., 1889)			
	Vencina	Mar. 1899					
24	INDEST, Louis	July 1854	21	Moussona (sic)	Bovaria	Bov.	Ins. agent
	Mathilde	July 1858	21				
	Felicite	Mar. 1880					
	Frederic	July 1882					Salesman
	Henry	Dec. 1884					at school
	Felix	Jan. 1887					at school
	Joseph	Oct. 1889					at school
	August	Apr. 1896					

<u>DUPERIER AVENUE</u>		Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	occupation
29	RODDY, Thomas	Apr. 1834	46				Day Laborer
	Julia	May 1836	47				
	Louise	Oct. 1876	S				
	Ida	Dec. 1878					
	Rodney	Nov. 1861					Barber
30	MOITY, Alex	Mar. 1872	1				Barber
	Louise	Mar. 1878	1				
31	DUPUY, Alcee	Jan. 1841	33				Grocer
	Elizabeth	May 1847	33				
	William	June 1879	S				Govt. Clerk
	John	Mar. 1871	S				
	Mary	Aug. 1872	S				
	Charles	Apr. 1875	S				Grocery clerk
	James	Nov. 1879	S				Day Laborer
	Clarence	Mr. 1883	S				Grocery salesman
	Henry	Nov. 1884	S				at school
	Thomas	Sept 1889	S				at school
	Romie (sic)	Jan. 1892	S				at school
32	BERRY, John	Feb. 1848	27		Ky.	Pa.	Steamboat Eng.
	Ada	Aug. 1855	27		France	France	
	Theresa	Aug. 1879	S				
	Michael	Feb. 1886					Day Laborer
	Rena	Aug. 1888					at school
	Ellen	Dec. 1891					at school
	Thomas	Jan. 1894					
33	BERRY, Georgiana	Aug. 1851	Wid.		W. Indies	W. Indies	
	Albert	July 1871	S				Steamboat pilot
	Sarah	Dec. 1879	S				
	Ada	Feb. 1882	S				
	Charles	June 1885	S				Dry goods salesman
	Bertha	Oct. 1886	S				at school
	Sarah E.	July 1824	Wid. (mother-in-law)				
			Pa.				
	Howard W.	Nov. 1850	S (brother-in-law)		Ky.	Pa.	Steamboat pilot
34	LEWIS, Charles	Nov. 1858	4	Va.			Constructor/bldr.
	Rita	Jan. 1868	4				
	Charles, Jr.	Nov. 1896					
	Claude	Sept 1898					

<u>DUPERIER AVENUE</u> (cont.)	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
35 FRENCH, Walter	Jan. 1872	5				Steamboat pilot
Leone	Dec. 1874	5				
Elenora	Apr. 1896	S				
Thelma	Oct. 1897	S				
Esther	Dec. 1898	S				
DUGAS, Alader	Mar. 1845	Wid.				
36 MIGUEZ, Alphonse	Jan. 1852	22				Day Laborer
Eliza	Sept 1854	22		N. H.		Seamstress
Kate	Aug. 1878	S				Day Laborer
Wellington	Dec. 1879	S				at school
Robert	Dec. 1888	S				at school
Balch	Sept 1892	S				
37 LANDRY, Jules	apr. 1867	7				Saloon keeper
Ella	Mar. 1874	7				
Robert	Feb. 1893	7				at school
Georgiana ?	Aug. 1894					
Leona	Dec. 1895					
Albert	Aug. 1897					
Ralph	Dec. 1898					
Raoul	Nov. 1868	S (brother)				Liquor salesman
38 STAFFORD, William	Dec. 1842	21	Indiana	S. C.	Va.	Drayman
Emma	Nov. 1852	21	N. C.			
45 DARCEE, Oscar	May 1847	17				Gardener
?	Dec. 1846	17				
Theresa	apr. 1884	S				at school
Lotta	Mar. 1887	S				at school
Celemin	Oct. 1894	S				at school
BOUTTE, Celemin	Dec. 1820	Wid. (mothe-in-law)				
46 LANDRY, Joseph	Feb. 1832	Wid.				Landlord
BROUSSARD, Hilda	Sept 1879	S				
Liddia	Jan. 1883	S				
47 BROUSSARD, Mozart	Feb. 1874	3				Drayman
Florene	Mar. 1876	3				Seamstress
Indiana	Jan. 1897					
Antonie	July 1898					
48 BOUTTE, Daniel	Apr. 1876	2				Carpenter
Carmella	Nov. 1878	2				
Roy	Sept 1899					

BOOK REVIEWS

ECRITS LOUISIANAIS DU DIX-NEUVIEME SIECLE: *Nouvelles, Contes et Fables*. Edited by Gerard Labarre St. Martin and Jacqueline K. Voorhies. (Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 1979. 263 pp. Table of Contents, Preface, Foreword, and Glossary. \$14.95.)

The appearance of this text is a welcome and logical development of the current renaissance in Louisiana French. While studying a language that has only an oral tradition may interest a select group of ethnologists and cultural anthropologists, it is a rather esoteric pursuit. What the editors of this anthology have done is best expressed in their own words:

The purpose of this book is to make available some of the writings of the Louisiana French authors and to illustrate the written and oral traditions of French-speaking Louisiana. The short stories, tales, and fables in this volume were selected for their linguistic and historical value as well as for their literary interest. They reflect the thought, attitudes, and customs of Louisiana when French influence was predominant.

It is at once apparent that *Ecrits louisianais du dix-neuvième siècle* fills a gap that has long existed. The only other comparable work is the now long out-of-print *France d'Amérique* (1932) by Simone de la Souhere Deléry and Gladys Renshaw.

The reader is informed that there were three varieties of French in Louisiana: 1) Standard French spoken by the Creoles, 2) Acadian French spoken by the descendants of the exiles from Nova Scotia, 3) creole spoken by uneducated blacks. The last named is so different in morphology, syntax, and phonology that it is understood with the greatest difficulty by Louisianians, unless they have grown up with it. The Acadian variety would present problems for students whose only French was acquired in urban schools. This most commonly spoken variety is, however, the rarest in the written literature and this collection is no exception to the rule. There are no excerpts in it nor many words peculiar to it.

The three major divisions of the text are: 1) *Nouvelles et Recits* (short stories and narratives), 2) *Contes folkloriques* (folk tales), 3) *Fables* (fables in French and creole). The choice of genres is consistent with the editors' broad goals. The tone becomes progressively didactic as we move from humor and reminiscences blurred by time to the *contes folkloriques* with their implied morals to the fables where the message is unmistakable. To assume, however, that all Louisiana French literature borders on the naive and is based on wistful memories, folklore, and fables would be to do it a great injustice as sophistication and cosmopolitanism exist in all genres.

In the *Nouvelles et Recits*, "Le Cas de conscience" by Félix Voorhies can only be described as delightful. A man steals a pig and by the most ingenious casuistry salves his conscience. The plot is trivial, but the humor and style recall Daudet's meridional manner at its very best. His other offerings are less brilliant, though "Une Page de mon roman" has an air of rural *marivaudage* that makes the reader curious about his playlets. "Le Bon Vieux Temps" by Louise Augustin Fortier is ostensibly based on her grandmother's description of a bloody slave uprising in Santo Domingo. Her "Chronique du vieux temps" relates how a friend fell in love with a daring Confederate scout who, wearing her gold cross, her parting gift to him, later died on the field. Marie Dumestre's "De Biloxi à Beauvoir" is the story of an outing to the home of the late Jefferson Davis. "Mon Oncle Jacques" by Ulisse Marinoni

is the portrait of the dying breed of antebellum southern gentlemen and of one in particular who spent hours absorbed in his memories before the barren site of a once opulent riverfront plantation. In "Ma Tante Louise" Marinoni sympathetically portrays the maiden aunt who lost her fiancé in the Civil War and devotes her life to memories and the proper observance of All Saints' Day.

The second group, "*Contes folkloriques*," is comprised mainly of animal stories put into modern French. They first appeared in creole in Alcée Fortier's *Louisiana Folk-Tales* (1895). *Compere Bouki*, *Mme Carencro*, and *M. Macaque* are the dupes in some of them. The reader will think he is reading Aesop or a medieval bestiary retouched by an African hand. "Le Mariage du Diable" is very close to Perrault's "Blue Beard." "Jean Sotte" figures in both Negro and Acadian folklore. Like the young Gargantua, he did everything at the inopportune time, and notwithstanding his name, was smart enough to solve the sphinx's riddle to win the hand of a king's daughter.

The "Fables" have, as a rule, titles derived from La Fontaine, but the morals differ in many cases. "Le Lion et le Rat" by the French fabulist was quite popular judging by the number of imitations. Stephen Bernard, Onesime de Bouchel, and Dr. Charles Delery are represented in standard French. Edgar Grima and Jules Choppin used creole in their pieces, but Choppin was unable to sustain a longer work in this patois and his attempt at reproducing an elderly Negro's "Entretien sur les 12 mois" is marred by lapses into standard French.

The editors have relied almost verbatim on E. L. Tinker's *Les Ecrits de langue française en Louisiane au XIXe siècle* for biographical data. They have provided a glossary, but no notes. How many young French students will grasp the mythological allusions or know who Claude Lorrain was? How many graduate students know what a "Gaveau" is? Pamphile Le May, a Canadian who probably never visited Louisiana, and was at best a *membre correspondant* of *L'Athénée Louisianais*, is included among creole writers. Typographical errors are few, but the dates of Onesime de Bouchel's death and the publication of Fortier's work are among them.

With this minor criticism aside, we can only commend the editors for their timely contribution. Our appetite has been whetted. Certainly there is enough material in Barde, Canonge, Dessommes, Gayarré, Alfred Mercier, the Rouquettes, St. Ceran, Testut et al. for other works of this kind.

University of New Orleans

John Perret

PLANTATION HOMES OF THE TECHE COUNTRY. By Paul F. Stahls, Jr. (Gretna, La.: Pelican Publishing Company, 1979. 96 pages, 9 x 11, cloth, illustrated, \$12.95.)

On the east bank of upper Bayou Teche, a short distance north of Cecilia on Louisiana Highway 347, stands a magnificent old unoccupied house. Surrounded as it is by massive magnolias and live oaks, and with its broken windows, crooked balconies, moss-covered brick columns and missing shutters, this ancient raised Creole cottage stirs the imagination. What dark secrets and wonderful mysteries do you possess, old house? Who built you and why are you in such a sad state of disrepair?

Some, if not all, these answers are to be found in Paul Stahls' latest volume in a pictorial series about significant structures in Louisiana. At the very least Stahls and Leonard Hingle have collaborated to produce dozens of spectacular photographs about this house and many other ancient structures of South Louisiana. It is, moreover, enhanced with information about Civil War battles, military movements and other historical, architectural and etymological details.

Unlike an earlier volume on *Plantation Homes of the Lafourche Country* (Pelican, 1969), which was appropriately named, this second work ranges in scope far beyond the boundaries of Bayou Teche to encompass structures and sites in much of the old Attakapas and Opelousas country. From Morgan City and the lower Atchafalaya the reader is conducted up the scenic Teche through the homes of Evangeline country, across the prairies to those of Lafayette, Grand Coteau, and Opelousas and westward to the prairie palaces of Crowley, Jennings, and Lake Charles.

The architecture awes, impresses, inspires, and sometimes intimidates. Is there another region of this country so richly endowed in its architectural diversity and heritage? Here are splendid antebellum sugar mansions erected by French aristocrats and the *nouveau riche* of a slave society; there are the humble Acadian cottages built by impoverished exiles from Nova Scotia, and sprinkled in between are structures built by Louisiana's anomalous free people of color, by Englishmen, Prussians, Germand, Spaniards, Irishmen, and by religious orders; and on your left, ladies and gentlemen, is an unmarked battle site which once ran red with the blood of a tormented nation.

The reader is not likely to get lost on this Cook's, rather Stahls', tour of homes in Southwestern Louisiana. Each location is precisely pin-marked with street names, highway numbers, and familiar landmarks, as well as a detailed guide on how to reach the next significant site.

One of the great strengths of this work is the result of the fact that Stahls doggedly pursued his mission. He visited virtually every structure named, personally interviewed the owners and faithfully recorded their oral comments or whatever else he could dig up regarding the history, ownership, and other details. As a result, almost every location described is enhanced by some interesting, amusing, or unusual anecdote. Indeed the book is replete with tales of the supernatural, of buried treasure, of romance, or of Civil War incidents.

However, as might be expected with oral tradition, the facts have become obscured with time. Dates have been forgotten, one war or campaign confused with another, details have been lost, others added. Stories have been embellished and possibly even fabricated. Thus we have the example of Hypolite Chretien, a wealthy planter near present-day Sunset, who stood watching a raging Civil War battle from the balcony of his Chretien Point home. Worried that his home and life were in jeopardy, he displayed the Masonic distress signal as shells exploded all around. All fine enough, but it exceeds the range of credibility that "General Banks responded, called a brief cease-fire and moved his battle line a safe distance from the house." Nonetheless it makes a nice story, and it is to Stahls' everlasting credit that he records without comment these traditions which might otherwise be lost to posterity.

"So ends your tour of Bayou Teche and Southwest Louisiana," writes the author on the final page. He might have added that nowhere will one find a more interesting, better illustrated or less expensive tour of these silent enigmas of Louisiana.

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The Bayou Teche—Who It Was Named After*

Submitted by David C. Edmonds

As everything of a local nature, and especially any little reminiscence that tends to throw additional light upon the early settlement of a county or state is eagerly sought after, we copy from the *Planter's Banner* of Saturday last the following interesting story of the Bayou Teche.

Many suppose the name of our beautiful bayou to be of Indian origin. But such, however, is not the case. The stream was called after Edward Teche, the noted pirate, who is said to have had a rendezvous on Berwick's Bay, somewhat in the neighborhood of the present terminus of the Opelousas Railroad, now fast becoming one of the most populous sections, not alone of St. Mary, but of the State, with two rival towns which, at no distant day, may vie even with the present commercial metropolis of the Southwest. The rendezvous of the corsair has become the habitation of the husbandman, the professional man, the merchant, and the artisan. The wilderness of yesterday is the city of today; the red denizen of the forest is no more seen with his bow and arrow, tomahawk and scalping knife, in pursuit of game. His haunts have been taken possession of by the white invaders. And where once the deer and buffalo bounded over prairie and woodland, secure from the approach of civilized man, the eve now rests upon the smiling verdure of fields of cane, cotton, corn and rice and magnificent groves of the orange, the magnolia and the far-famed pride of China, and other tropical trees and plants, wafting their sweet odors and perfuming the very atmosphere as they gently wave in the diurnal seabreeze. And where the bold smuggler and murderous clan reveled, gutting at defiance all law and order, secure from the officers of justice, two embryo cities now rear their heads made busy by the hum of trade and the arrival and departure of steamers conveying the rich produce of the country to far-off shores, giving evidence of civilization, thrift and refinement. As we ascend the numerous streams that find vent for their waters in the Mexican Gulf, we see before us the planter's princely mansion, surrounded by neat little cottages, the habitations of the slaves, where he cheerfully rests at night with no thoughts of care to disturb his happy dreams.

What changes have been wrought since the pirate chief gave name to that beautiful umbrageous stream, whose waters flow through one of the richest and most delightful countries on the western continent—fit, indeed, to be styled the "Paradise of Louisiana."

*Taken from the Opelousas Courier, October 8, 1859.

ETIENNE DE VAUGINE:

SOLDIER, PLANTER, TRADER

By Gertrude C. Taylor*

Early in 1773, Luis de Unzaga, then Spanish governor of Louisiana, received from Gabriel Fusilier de la Claire, commandant of the Attakapas, an inventory of the indigo plantation of Etienne de Vaugine. (1) While this inventory is a commentary on the economic history of the French regime in Louisiana, it is also an insight into the political, social, and economic structures of both French and Spanish colonial governments. Both France and Spain embraced mercantilism, an economic system of commerce through which the mother countries profited from exploitation of their colonies. France's neglect of Louisiana, the conniving of inept governors, and corruption in the military brought nothing more than misery upon the colonists, and they soon turned to looking for whatever they needed wherever they could find it. This practice usually meant an illicit trade with the English or a mutually illegal trade between the colonists and Spanish possessions. Although her rule improved the economy of Louisiana, Spain, when she took over the colony, decreed such strict mercantilist ordinances restricting trade that the colonists, demanding something more for themselves, sought trade beyond the limits of the law. It became good economy, then, for them to patronize the cheaper source of supply and to ask no questions as to the origin of the goods or its source of supply.

Into this world of economic confusion came Etienne de Vaugine, a man who had learned very early the ways by which to open the doors of economic opportunity in a land where political intrigue was a means of achieving this goal. And for the remainder of his lifetime, De Vaugine used his talents to insure himself and his family the better things of life.

Etienne Martin de Nuisement de Vaugine was born July 5, 1724, the tenth child in a family of high rank by itself and by its alliances. His father, Sieur Etienne Martin de Vaugine was a well established merchant in Voves, France, and his mother, Emeranthienne Hardouin, came from the highest social rank in the city of de Joinery. (2)

Young De Vaugine began his military career July 15, 1742. On October 22, 1744, he was named *cadet en pied*, and April 15, 1745, he was commissioned a lieutenant in the Royal

* The author expresses gratitude to the staff of The Center for Louisiana Studies and to Miss Jeanne Castille for help in the translation of French and Spanish documents.

1. Fusilier de la Claire to Unzaga, Jan. 14, 1773. Seville, Spain, Archivos General de Indias, Papeles procedentes de Cuba, legajo 189A:41. Henceforth cited as PPC with legajo and folio nos. On March 27, 1773, Unzaga acknowledged receipt of that inventory. PPC, 189A:45.

For this inventory see Laura L. Porteus, "Inventory of De Vaugine's Plantation," *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, IX (1926), 570. De Vaugine's plantation was located on Bayou Teche a few miles below the present village of Loreeuville. It was a land grant from Luis de Unzaga in 1772. Original measurements were 40 arpents front by 40 arpents depth on the east side of Bayou Teche and 40 arpents front by 20 arpents depth on the west side. Its southern boundary was approximately at the present Belle Place location, extending north to the present Teche-Lake Canal. See Gertrude C. Taylor, *Land Grants along the Teche*, Part II. The same tract later became the property of Joseph Broussard.

2. Gervais Mécasine, "Un Joviniien à la Louisiane au XVIII^e siècle," *Bull., Soc. sciences, Yonne*, t. 107 (1975), 62-64.

Bavarian Regiment. (3) It was with this rank of lieutenant that De Vaugine arrived in New Orleans in 1751. His references and education as well as his contacts in France opened all doors in the city to him. The Marquis de Vaudreuil, then French governor, received De Vaugine as though he were an official of the crown. In time, his disposition and his haughtiness added to his esteem in the climate of intrigue which prevailed in the colony. (4)

August 22, 1752, De Vaugine was assigned to the Illinois country, a place to which he chose to go. (5) The expedition, under the command of Benoist Sainte-Clair, spent the winter at the Arkansas Post. When supplies became low at the post, De Vaugine was sent to Natchez to get provisions to carry them through the winter. He returned to the Arkansas Post in January 1753, and shortly thereafter, he married Pélagie de Livilliers. (6) Besides becoming the brother-in-law of Lepelletier de la Houssaye, De Vaugine became more assured in his own position through the appointment of his wife's cousin, Guillaume le Senechal Dauberville, as *commisnaire-ordonnateur*. (7)

The next year and a half, De Vaugine, with his wife and baby daughter, Francoise Pélagie, spent in Illinois. During this expedition he wrote an account of all places along the rivers he coursed, and, hoping to build better understanding between redmen and the French, he noted with particular interest the Indian tribes, their physical characteristics as well as their trading habits and their lifestyles. (8) On this mission one of his well-carried-out assignments was the revitalization of the post at Natchez, which for more than twenty-five years had

3. As a cadet De Vaugine was stationed in the Company of Perillen. In the War of the Austrian Succession, he saw action in the sieges of Fribourg and Tournay and in Flanders, at the battles of Maria and Fontenay. In 1746 he was in the Battle of Reucoux, and in 1747, the Battle of Lewfeld. *Ibid.*, 68-70.

4. *Ibid.*, 74.

Under Vaudreuil trade languished, for ships from France could not be depended upon and the closely watched trade with the Spanish colonies was, at best, irregular. At one time the Superior Council protested to French officials concerning the openness of British smuggling. There was criticism of the Illinois trade, for convoy and boat captains as well as government officials made huge profits at the expense of the government. Edwin Adams Davis, *Louisiana, A Narrative History* (Baton Rouge, 1970), p. 66.

Vaudreuil himself was accused of unethical practices, of being interested in clandestine Negro and Indian trade, and of ignoring his wife's commercial operations from their own house. Moreover, discipline in the military had declined and trading in the king's stores had become common practice. *Ibid.*, p. 67.

5. Perhaps, since trading was his heritage, De Vaugine chose this assignment because it gave him an opportunity to view, first hand, trading conditions in the colony. Traditionally, commandants of the posts dealt in trading even though such practices were illegal.

Benoist Sainte-Clair's son later settled on the Tache in the same area as De Vaugine. Macaisne, "Un Jovisien," 75.

6. Permission for the marriage was granted by the governor, marriage bans were dispensed with, and Etienne and Pélagie were married in the chapel at the Arkansas Post. *Ibid.*

The commandant of the post was Lepelletier de la Houssaye who married Magdelaine Victoire Petit de Livilliers, a sister of Pélagie. It is not known whether De la Houssaye and De Vaugine were brothers-in-law at this time.

7. De Vaugine gave a complete description of Fort Assumption and related their campaigns against unfriendly Indians from that fort to the River of St. Jerome (Ohio River). He also remarked that the Indians were good hunters and that they bragged that they "have not dipped their blood in French blood." Macaisne, "Un Jovisien," 78.

8. *Ibid.*

stagnated since the massacre of 1729. De Vaugine also acquired property in the "beautiful Illinois country." (9) His one and only concern in the entire period was that created by the news of the impending removal of his friend, Vaudreuil, as governor.

In January 1755, De Vaugine's expedition, having dropped off flour at the Arkansas Post returned to New Orleans with food supplies. But all the brilliance of success tarnished with news that Kerlérec, Vaudreuil's successor, did not agree with Dauberville on the issues of distribution of the king's stores, and to make matters worse, Dauberville died on March 15, two months after De Vaugine's return. Just when his fortunes were going so well, De Vaugine lost a real opportunity, and thereafter, since he was not in the favor of Bobé Desclozeaux, Dauverville's successor, he began to feel that his advancement to captain was barred. He wrote to his connections in Versailles complaining that jealousies were the cause of his ill-fortune and that Kerlérec was to blame. (10) He also called attention to the "good job he has done in the Illinois country and to the fact that he was the oldest lieutenant in the colony." But De Vaugine's pleas fell on deaf ears, because, as he noted, *on alors d'autres chats a fouetter!* (they—the authorities in France—had other cats to whip). He then complained of illness and applied for a leave of absence to return to France in order to regain his health. When authorization for this leave was granted and he had disposed of his property in Illinois, De Vaugine left his wife and two young children, a third yet unborn, in New Orleans and departed for France in late June 1758. (11)

De Vaugine spent the next four and a half years in France. Having settled family affairs in de Joincy, having taken part in the war against Germany, (12) and having made all possible contacts with Versailles regarding his position in Louisiana, De Vaugine returned to the colony in early 1763, just before Jean-Jacques-Blaise d'Abbadie arrived to take his place as governor. De Vaugine rejoined his family at New Orleans. Almost immediately upon his installation as governor, D'Abbadie gave De Vaugine permission to occupy and cultivate a 3,500 arpent tract on Bayou Teche in the Attakapas, (13) a concession on which he

9. By what means De Vaugine obtained his property in Illinois is not revealed in this document.

10. *Ibid.*

11. From a "General List and Marginal Notations Regarding the Officers Maintained in Louisiana, 1758," is found the following notation:

DEVAUGINE: Assigned to Louisiane, Oct. 1, 1750. . . . This officer is restless, heedstrong, and insubordinate; moreover, [he is] more concerned with commerce than with the execution of his duties. In a word, he is nothing but a trader.

This officer went to France on a medical leave of absence on false pretenses—for no other reason than to acquire a commission as captain despite my objections, as well as to acquire trade goods.

Paris. Archives des Colonies, Troupes des Colonies, Series D 2c, Vol. 50, folio 64.

The above accusation was apparently made by Governor Kerlérec. On the other hand, some time later Kerlérec, himself, was recalled to France, accused of having used government goods for his own profit.

12. This was the Seven Years War. De Vaugine found a place in this campaign because of his knowledge of the German language. Mécasine. "Un Jovianin," 80.

13. This land is described as being near a place commonly called Fausse Pointe (actually near Lafayette). *Ibid.*, 82. See above footnote 2 for location.

developed an indigo plantation. (14)

During the transition between French and Spanish rule, the governor reduced the military from thirty-six companies to a mere four companies. De Vaugine obtained command of one of these units and the rank of captain, a valuable and much appreciated recompense for time spent in reestablishing himself. In carrying out his duties, De Vaugine made observations and reported to D'Abbadie that things were not going well in the colony and that he feared a revolution in favor of the British when the Spanish arrived. Further, he dealt with several situations involving "misery" in the colony—particularly that of finance and of the soldiers. (15)

Militarily De Vaugine did not take part in the upheaval against the Spanish government because, at that time, he was exiled from the capital. (16) Prior to the revolt of 1768, De Vaugine was involved in an altercation with Lieutenant-General de Villemont in which the latter received a wound from which he died two months later. (17) The governor, Don Antonio de Ulloa, immediately banished both men from the capital, sending De Vaugine to Natchitoches where he remained throughout the revolt against Spanish occupation. (18) However after prominent witnesses testified to the "unimpeachable integrity" of De Vaugine, he was "washed of all accusations." When O'Reilly took over the reigns of government, he placed the colony in the hands of competent Frenchmen who had held the confidence of the colonists. For this reason De la Houssaye became commandant of the militia and De Vaugine took up his duties as an officer. (19)

With the governorship of Unzaga came the rebirth of the plantations. His land grants

14. "Trifling but successful studies, made as early as 1712, had shown that indigo, a plant used for making dye, could be grown to great advantage in the colony. Measures had been taken by the Company of the Indies to supply planters with good seed. In the last year of subjugation to France, the colony exported \$100,000 of indigo. Francois Xavier Martin, *History of Louisiana*, 2nd ed. (New Orleans, 1763), pp. 152-205.

The processing of indigo was a distasteful and tedious job in which the three-step steeping system was used. The first step was the "rotting" vat, the second, the beating vat, where the liquid was beaten with wooden paddles, and the third step was the settling vat. The product, of moist consistency which could be spread with a knife or paddle, was put in cloth bags and hung to drain, after which it was packed in casks for shipment. Davis, *Louisiana*, p. 73.

15. D'Abbadie informed Minister Choiseul of De Vaugine's observations and referred to him as an officer who "reports with frankness and determination to defend himself and his charges." He added, "He [De Vaugine] is a man who does not bend his backbone." Mecaïsne, "Un Jovienien," 83.

16. De Vaugine was not without reproach for not taking part in the revolt. *Ibid.*, 84. However, contrary to the foregoing statement, De Vaugine is named as one of the small body of men who supported Ulloa and frequented his home in the brief period before the expulsion of the governor in the Rebellion of 1768. Charles Gayarré, *History of Louisiana*, 4th ed. (1903; reprint ed., New Orleans, 1965), II, 182-183.

17. De Vaugine had been named tutor of Dauberville's minor daughter, and after Villemont married Dauberville's widow, he questioned the handling of some of the child's interests. Villemont brought the case to court, and when it was lost, he (according to witnesses) confronted De Vaugine, insulted him, and advanced upon him with a sword. De Vaugine defended himself, inflicting a mortal wound to Villemont. The affair left a lasting impression upon De Vaugine's wife, who, "only three days after the birth of her child, saw her husband covered with blood." Mecaïsne, "Un Jovienien," 84.

18. *Ibid.*, 85.

19. *Ibid.*

were liberal and his eyes were closed to dealings in contraband. (20) Although he had occupied the land some years earlier and probably had some degree of cultivation on that land (his inventory shows that he was well established by December 1772), De Vaugine in 1771 retreated with his family to his plantation on the Teche to cultivate indigo and "to generate enough funds to satisfy his creditors." (21) And, indeed, by 1773, when the inventory was made, his plantation was a fair example or forerunner of what the old plantation system in Louisiana was intended to be. (22)

It was the death of Pélagie in December of 1772, that occasioned the inventory, which was necessary to adjust the community of acquetes and gains between Captain de Vaugine and his deceased wife "so as to make a separation of the community of property belonging to him and the late Mrs. Pélagie Petit de Livilliers, his wife, and to ascertain the portion belonging to each of the heirs." (23)

Several interesting facts are revealed in this inventory. Besides the plantation occupying a considerable body of land, the "main house" (*la Maison principale*) was a raised cottage resting on sleepers. It was divided into three rooms enclosed by galleries on two sides, with two storage rooms or sheds of stakes on the ground covered with straw. The court or garden

20. A large contreband trade with the British began after they occupied West Florida in 1763, and continued until Galvez conquered the area during the American Revolution. Although such trade was against Spanish commercial policy, Louisiana governors consistently closed their eyes to violations, for the colonists desperately needed the goods the British had to sell. Devis, *Louisiano*, p. 136.

21. In August 1772, De Vaugine wrote to Unzege thanking him for the liberal lend grant and informing him that he had "entrusted to Flammend [Grevemberg] four correous of indigo" to be delivered to Unzege. He found no difference between this indigo and the plants produced on his former holdings, and he expected a bumper harvest. He also stated that he had "exiled himself" to the Attakapas. PPC, 189A:36. When his inventory was made two years later, De Vaugine's indebtedness was estimated at 4,000 piostres.

At that time products from the Attakapas were transported to New Orleans by flatboat, making their way through Grand Lake and into a series of bayous at the north end of the lake to Plaquemine, thence down the Mississippi to New Orleans. De Vaugine's inventory lists one boat, two terpeulins, and one grappling iron.

22. Henry P. Dert, "A Louisiana Indigo Plantation on Bayou Teche," *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, IX (1926), 367.

This inventory is important for all the information it contains on family life on an indigo plantation, of their contacts with the Islands, and particularly with the condition of the slaves.

23. At the time of her death, Etienne and Pélagie had six children: Françoise Pélagie, age 19; Madeleine Victoire, age 17; Etienne, 14; Françoise Silisie, 9; Methurin, 7; and Charles François, 5. In 1776, Pélagie married François Esnould de Liveudeis. He was from a wealthy and influential family, the son of one of the first inhabitants of New Orleans. About the same time Madeleine Victoire married Ignacio Delino de Chelmette, whose father was a cousin of Tanti and whose property was below New Orleans, near where the famous battle was fought. Other connections are LaRonde, Villeré, Bienvenu, and Deléry.

Etienne married Elizabeth Constance Derensbourg, daughter of Pierre Frederick Derensbourg and Elizabeth Duellies and granddaughter of the Chevalier Derensbourg. They lived on the German Coast about 27 miles above New Orleans. He died in 1807.

In 1793 François Charles married Marie Félicité Deuterive, daughter of Velliers Deuterive, his father's old comrade. In 1813 he was confirmed to title for 320 arpents in the Missouri Territory, claimed through occupancy and cultivation from 1800 to 1813. *American State Papers, Public Lands*, III, 356. He was still on this piece in 1827 when he, with others, petitioned Congress "to help protect the small grants of land." Petitioners stated they were of advanced age. *Ibid.*, 878.

Françoise Silisie married Sebastian Leviste in France at the age of 31. They had several children, the youngest of whom came to Louisiana and married at Edgerd, St. John Parish, May 26, 1832. *Meccoisne*, "Un Jovinien," 90.

was enclosed with oak stakes. Movable property included equipment for processing indigo and all implements of agriculture and tools for mechanical necessities. The contents of the house showed a degree of furnishing and of things compatible only with comfort and good living. (24) Household items included sixteen pairs of sheets, fifteen dozen napkins, copper candlesticks, porcelain china, crystal, silver, six pairs of linen curtains, and six gold rings mounted with cornelian stone, marcasite, and topaz among many other things. The inventory included thirty-two slaves—ten able-bodied males, two not able-bodied males, ten women and ten children. The value put on these slaves is another profitable study. The highest price for an adult male was two hundred forty *piastres* (25) while for a six-year-old child it was one hundred *piastres*. Only one woman was sold separately—for one hundred sixty *piastres*. The other women were appraised with their children.

Mules, horses, oxen, cows, pigs, and hogs completed this inventory which was signed "Vaigine" and witnessed by De la Houssaye, Bernard Dauterive, Boutte, L. Grevemberg, and Fusilier de la Claire. Jean Berard and Claude Boutte valued and appraised the property. (26) While De Vaigine had debtors scattered from Illinois to New Orleans, he had creditors in La Rochelle, Strasbourg, Port-au-Prince, and Paris. (27) Mr. de Vaigine, then, was not only a well-dressed indigo planter on the Teche, but also a well-known businessman who had his debtors and his creditors scattered over two hemispheres and the Islands in between. Much is to be found in the way of inferences, direct and indirect, in this old inventory of 1773.

The tragedy on the Teche plantation took De Vaigine and his children to the family place next to what is now the Vieux Carre in New Orleans where they remained for the next five years. At this time his two older daughters were married. In 1778, De Vaigine received an appointment as major in command of New Orleans, a post of confidence awarded by Galvez. After taking part in the Galvez Expedition against the British in West Florida, De Vaigine was made military and civil commander and lieutenant-governor of the royal fort of Natchitoches and its dependencies. With this appointment went the usual privilege of trade, the

24. A description of one of the pieces of furniture is as follows:

One furnished bed composed of one bedstead on stag (roeback) feet, two mattresses, one feather bed, one bolster, one pair of sheets, one large covering, one linen mosquito netting, the tester, headboard, and head curtains of the bed of yellow satin. Dart, 568.

25. This Negro was named Big Louis, age thirty-three years, whom Mr. de Vaigine had sent to the city "to obtain payment of various obligations." *Ibid.*

26. Fusilier de la Claire was commandant of the Atlapapas at that time. Jean Berard was a neighbor and syndic; Lepelletier de la Houssaye had a grant on the west side of De Vaigine; Bernard Dauterive occupied an extensive grant where St. Martinville is now located; Claude Boutte had a land grant on the east end of the present city of New Iberia and southwest of De Vaigine; and Louis Grevemberg occupied land near the present Keystone Lock and Dam. See Gertrude C. Taylor, *Land Grants Along the Teche*, Part II.

27. Among De Vaigine's creditors in Paris was One Pinard, "Tailor of Paris." Dart, 569.

love of which was deep in De Vaugine's heritage. (28) Three of his children, Françoise Silisie, Etienne, and François Charles went with him. (29)

It was his zest for trading, however, that brought about the climax of his long and colorful career as soldier and businessman, for, in his fourth year as head of the post, he entered into fistfight with a commercial rival whom he sought to exclude from trade with the Caddo tribe. (30) So much embarrassed by the affair, De Vaugine thought it prudent to give up his position and to plan to return to France. His two sons having gone their own way by this time, De Vaugine, with his daughter Silisie sailed for France in 1786.

In his native land he was again united with his family members and he was able to seek out old friends and connections. After Silisie married a Frenchman, it became obvious to De Vaugine that, if he were to return to Louisiana at all, he must return alone. He was a man of seventy then, tired and somewhat lonely. His wife had been dead for twenty years, and those years he had spent with his children beside him. Wishing to see his four other children and his grandchildren and to settle his affairs in Louisiana, he sailed back to the colony sometime before 1794. In New Orleans, September 24, 1794, De Vaugine gave his last will and testament in which each of his children received a bequest. (31) Just when and where he died is not recorded.

28. In a letter to his lordship Señor Cavallero de Croix, commandant general, in which he pleads for goods with which to trade with the Indians, Da Vaugine signed his name "Estevan de Vaugine, retired captain, former sorgento mayor interino of New Orleans, civil and military commandant in the royal fort at Natchitoches."

In this letter he pleads for goods to trade with the Indians whose villages are in a state of unrest. Charles Wilson Hackett, *Pichordo's Treatise on the Limits of Louisiano and Texas*. 4 vols. (Austin, Tex., 1943). II, 62.

29. The names of these three children appear in the church records of the Natchitoches Post. Nothing, however, is mentioned of Mathurin.

30. Miro to Galvaz, April 21, 1785, second carpeto, legajo 6.

31. Macaisne, "Un Jovinien," 91.

As stated before, De Vaugine's fourth child, Mathurin, is never mentioned after the family departed from the Teche. The boy probably died when the family was in New Orleans, since he is not mentioned at Natchitoches nor afterwards in his father's will.



AUBRY, FOUCAULT, AND THE ATTAKAPAS ACADIANS: 1765

by Michael James Foret*

The first large group of Acadians to reach Louisiana arrived at New Orleans in April, 1765, by way of St-Domingue. (1) Their ten years of wandering since *le Grand Derangement* had been long and hard, and many had died along the way. It must have been with a great sense of relief that they found themselves finally in a French colony where they were welcome and where, at last, they could settle down.

Yet, hardly could they have arrived at a more inopportune time. In 1763, at the close of the Seven Years' War, the French had ceded Louisiana to Spain, but by April 1765, the Spaniards had not yet come to claim their prize. France had been negligent in supplying the costly colony in the best of times, and having given it away, the ministry was even more reluctant to support a colony it regarded as belonging to others.

With money and supplies already critical, (2) a bad situation was made worse by the arrival of the destitute Acadians. In a letter to the minister requesting approval to subsidize the Acadians, Charles Philippe Aubry and Denis-Nicolas Foucault, the acting governor and acting *commissaire-ordonnateur* of the colony, state in a joint request for assistance that the Acadians had "no other resource but the charity of the king." (3)

The Acadians were allowed to settle in the regions of the "attakapas" and "appellousas", and Louis Andry, the *sous-ingénieur* of Louisiana, was sent with them to survey the lands, distribute the land grants, reconnoiter the area and generally assist in the settlement of the region. (4)

While the approval for the land grants upon which the Acadians were to settle came from the colonial government, they were actually given by Messrs. Dauterive and Masse, partners who had been granted lands in the region in 1763. This act of generosity did not go unrewarded, for they were given, in consideration of their grants to the Acadians, a grant to

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1. Charles-Philippe Aubry and Denis-Nicolas Foucault to Etienne-Francois, duc de Choiseul-Stainville, April 20, 1765. Paris, France. Archives Nationales, Archives des Colonies, Series C 13a (Louisiane: correspondance generale), volume 45, folios 21-24. Hereafter cited as AC, C 13a, with volume and folio numbers.

2. Carl A. Brasseur, trans and ed., *A Comparative View of French Louisiana, 1699 and 1762: The Journals of Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville and Jean-Jacques-Blaise d'Abbadie* (Lafayette, La., 1979), pp. 140-141.

3. Aubry and Foucault to Choiseul, April 20, 1765. AC, C 13a, 45:21-24.

4. For a translation of Andry's instructions, see Jacqueline K. Voorhies, trans., "The Attakapas Post: The First Acadian Settlement," *Louisiana History*, XVII (Winter, 1976), 91-96.

the lands north of Lake Tasse (Spanish Lake). The Acadians were required by the terms of their agreement with Dauterive, to raise cattle on the ceded lands. (5)

Because of their destitution, the Acadians needed everything to effect settlement. Aubry and Foucault promised the Acadians support for six months, the time it was deemed necessary before the Acadian farmers could harvest their first crop. This initial outlay by the colony amounted to 15,500 *livres*, 18 *sols*, an enormous expense considering the state of the colony's finances. After reporting this to the minister, the joint authors went on to several other aspects of the Acadian problem before admitting that the sum expended was only enough for three months and that they had pledged themselves to a supplement equal to the original expenditure. (6)

Less than a month later, on May 13, Foucault wrote the minister reporting the arrival of forty-eight more Acadian families from St-Domingue, and the rumor that one thousand more were on the way to join their bretheren. To compound the problem, settlers from the Alibamons and Illinois districts, which had been ceded to England in 1763, were also moving into New Orleans. (7)

The following day Aubry penned a letter to the minister, reiterating the depravation of the colony, but insisting that the money expended on the Acadians should be seen as a good investment by France or Spain (should they eventually occupy the colony, he adds), for one day the new settlers would be a great advantage to the colony. He also assured the minister that the Acadians were being supplied as economically as possible, being given only the bare essentials necessary to establish their settlements. (8)

On April 30 Foucault sent the minister an itemized statement accounting for the supplies given the Acadians. (9) This document is helpful in understanding the destitution of the Acadians upon their arrival in Louisiana, and the supplies necessary to begin settlement in Louisiana during the late eighteenth century.

1765 April 30, N.O.

Foucault, commissaire ordonnateur of Louisiana. Statement of foodstuffs and munitions given to the refugees Acadian families in Louisiana.

5. For a translation of the agreement between Dauterive and the Acadians, see Grover Rees, trans., "The Deutativa Compact: The Foundation of the Acadian Cattle Industry," *Attakapas Gazette*, XI (Summer, 1976), 91. For a discussion of the Deuterive Compact's importance in determining the location of Acadian settlement in the region, see Glenn R. Conrad, "The Acadian Story Continues to Unfold," *Attakapas Gazette*, XII (Summer, 1978), 89-90.

For more on the Acadian settlement in the Attakapas and Opelousas districts and the Acadian cattle industry, see also Gertrude C. Taylor, "Colonial Land Grants in the Attakapas," *Attakapas Gazette*, XV (Spring, 1980), 13-23.

6. Aubry and Foucault to Choiseul, April 20, 1765. AC, C 13a, 45:21-24.

7. Foucault to Choiseul, May 13, 1765. AC, C 13a, 45:118.

8. Aubry to Choiseul, May 14, 1765. AC, C 13a, 45:56-57.

9. Foucault to Choiseul, April 30, 1765. AC, C 13a, 45:30.

Statement of food stuffs, munitions and merchandise given from the Royal storehouses of Louisiana at New Orleans, to the Acadian families who came from St-Domingue, both for their stay in this city and for their establishment at Opelousas

13521. ¼ of bread		
3523.¼ of hard tack	22947. 5 10	
7275. of flour	of flour at . . . 4.6	5163.3
	.5	18.55
371 quarts of rice on the stalk at	.2	304.1
3045 white rice at	10.0	680
50 barrels 3 4 loose corn	.6	99.6
331 lard	.5	1601.5
6405 salt beef	10.0	680
68 axes at	6.0	144
24¼ axes at	5.0	380
76 pick axes at	10.0	80
8 howels at	25.0	1775
71 fusils grenadiers at		30
1 fusil Tuile for		132
132 of powder at	.8	106.8
266 of lead at	.8	53.4
133 of balls at	.15	135
180 of nails at	16.6	24.15
30 of ship's nails at	15.0	750
50 old milk cans	2.10	332.10
133 sacks at		14153 11s
	Other part	14153 11s
34 linen at	2 10	86.17.16
12 needles at	.3	1.16
20 thread at	2.10	50
12 sugars at	7.10	90.
12 chisels at	1.5	15.1
250 flints at	.6	6.5
22 borers at	12	6.17.6
5 pit-saws at	12	60.
2 rip-saws at	6	24.
5 saw blades omit at	.6	30.
100 of iron at	1	30.
20 of steel	20	20.
2 barrels of pitch at	.12	40.
1 barrel of tar at	.6	15.
72 of new rope at	1	43.4
124 of old rope at	20	37.4
200 of tow		200
4 cross-cut saws at	.6	80.
1 anvil estimated at	7.10	30.
8 two-handled knives at	5.	60.
18 iron shovels at	1.10	90.
4 scrappers	3.	6.
5 buckets with iron hoops	10	30.
12 files assorted at	2.10	.1
12 pairs of whip-cord at		

2 wad-extractors	.8	.1
1 blanket for		3.
11 old cloths at	1.10	16.10
20 oars at	3.	60.
2 tarpaulines		34.4
1 large barrel of wine		70.
assorted medicines estimated		90.
		<hr/> 15500 10s

done at New Orleans 30 April 1765 foucault

Papers Relating to the Claim of Bernard Dauterive of the Attakapas Lands
Statement of the Case by Livingston,

Dated January 14, 1829*

Marked October 10, 1763

On the 10th October 1763, Andre Masse petitions Mr. De Meilleurs (as written) commanding for the King at the Post of Pointe Coupée. Stating that the place on which he had established his vacherie more than sixteen years before was so small that he was engaged in suits with his neighbors by reason of the cattle being mixed with theirs. In order to avoid which he prays for a grant of "Prairie of the Vermillion" bounded on the east by the River Des Tortue, by the Lake Tasse, and by the mauvais bois North and West by the River Vermillion and South by the muddy provinces that borders on the sea (as written). The (Superior Council?) grants the petition recording that the commandant has full powers from Mr. Dabadie Director general &c. in granting the land to the petitioner. The (Seal?) is at the foot of the petition, but the signature is torn off and lost.

Dated March 2, 1765:

Copy from the French register of grants in the land office a complete French grant to Dauterive and Masse for a tract called the Prairie of Vermillion (describing it as above). The grant is made in consideration of the (illegible) which they make to the Acadian families, lately were now arrived in this province of the land which they have for a long time past occupied in the Attacapas, and of the advantages which will result to the capital from the large establishment of a vacherie which they propose to make on the said land called the prairie of the Vermillion by furnishing cattle which they will be enabled soon to do—excepting all inferior (as written) titles and possession—and it being also well understood that the land is on this side of the boundary that may have been fixed between the French and Spanish possessions in that quarter and that they will give up to as their titles of the land which they made to the Acadian families on condition that within a year from this date they shall form the said establishment in default of which it shall be reinstated to the domain of the king who may disprove of them on condition also of paying all [taxes] whereof any shall be established with the reservation along with the necessary timber for royal works, &c.

*State Land Office Records, Pintado Papers, Opelousas District, Book II, pp. 97-96.



Here, where it joins Bayou Courtableau in Port Barre, the Teche is born. Between steep banks the stream, heavy with spring rains, moves through ancient woodlands.

Springtime on the Upper Teche

By Gertrude C. Taylor

Nothing remains of the days when redmen paddled their dugouts up and down the Teche or of later times when courageous white men came from far-away places to establish themselves along its banks. Only the stream itself is there, coursing the same bed as it speeds southward, twisting through the rolling countryside of its birth to the flatter lands below.



And the stream cannot speak of the fast-rising waters that overflowed its banks at floodtide or of the multitudes who have been laid to rest beside it. But the lover of history can follow the ancient path as the stream moves lazily along on a spring day, and he can piece together scenes of long ago against the sharp backdrop of the present.



A century-old frame house overlooks a modern highway (opposite, above), and a railroad bridge crosses the Teche from the side that was the concession of Jacques Courtoubleau to the concession of Louis Pellerin on the west bank. Above, the modern highway follows the path of the stream, itself the original highway.







Bayou Fusilier flows away from the Teche in the center of Arnaudville. Below this junction, on the west side of the Teche, lie the brood lands that Gobriel Fusilier de la Claire purchased from Kinemo, Indian chief, in 1760. On the same side an old frame house, bleached, failing, and empty stands, while across the bayou a modern farmhouse (above) lends sharp contrast. A little farther down toward Cecilia is Huron Plantation House (left), a nostalgic picture of its better days.



Top—From the east side of Poché Bridge, a few miles above Breoux Bridge, the stream flows past the land of Alexandre de Clauet, once commandant of the Attakapas Post, down past a modern sugar mill, and on past the spot where Agricole Breux built his celebrated bridge.



THE JOURNAL OF JOHN LANDRETH

Transcribed and annotated by Dennis Gibson

(Continued from Vol. XV, No. 1)

February the 6th 1819 up this morning early wet enough and prepared to start for Bell Isle. started before Sun Rise with a fine fresh breeze from the southward and steered about West half North. six and a half miles from whence the East end of Bellisle bears, that is to say the high land North North West distant about three miles at the same time the west end of the high Land of Bellisle bears North West three and a half miles. from this place Plumb Island bore East half South from the place when we took different bearings we steered West by North about one mile to a lone bluff Live Oak tree standing on a margin of land near the water side from thence West North West one mile to a point of land which is the SouthWest point of the Island from thence we steer for a hammock of live oak on the other side of the bay North West half a mile where we got opposite the mouth of a large Bayou into which we steer in four fathoms water Bayou at the entrance about half a mile wide but soon narrow to about a quarter of a mile we enter this Bayou North East one mile from whence the west end of the high land of the Island bears South East from thence North East two hundred yards to the mouth of a Bayou about twenty yards wide into which we steer South East by South one hundred and fifty yards in four fathoms water thence East two hundred and fifty yards to the mouth of a small Bayou about twenty yards wide in seven feet water thence South Sixty yards thence East thirty-five yards in nine feet water thence South by East Eighty yards thence South East by East Eighty yards in Eleven feet water. thence South South East seventy yards in nine feet water to the landing at the west end of Bell Isle from the Landing on the Bayou East by South fifty yards through a firm piece of marsh to the high land on the west end of the Island here we arrived about a quarter before 10 o'clock AM being precisely three hours from Plumb Island with a fair Wind blowing fresh with a heavy swell settling in from the Gulph which frequently over raked us and kept some of the hands constantly Bailing the boat to keep her free on our arrival at Bell Isle Mr. Hutton, the Pilot and myself went on shore and viewed and surveyed the timber, soil and situation of this most beautiful spot. now I feel the want of talents for description to sit forth in a proper point of view this most lovely spot. the first thing we met on our first outing upon the high land of this Island is a large spreading Live Oak eight or nine feet diameter standing near the edge of the marsh with a number of names cut upon it and near to which is a most luxuriant growth of tounga grass of a most delicious flavor of which we cut hearty, which was a great treat after being so long without any kind of vegetables and all around every where wild mustard in great abundance which the pilot says is an excellent pot herb and much used in this country we now go to view the Timber and here we find an abundant crop of live oak of the first second and third classes from nine to eight, seven, six, five, four, and three feet diameter and all in a most healthy thriving state and besides a very great growth of very small young Live Oak in a very thriving healthy state there is at least at this moment four good trees to the acre fit for present use which would at the smallest calculation yield eight and nine tons per acre with a considerable growth of other timber White and Red Oak and every here and there Elegantly arranged are groves of the beautiful Laurel Magnolia which at all seasons delights the eye being clothed in never fading green and in looking round the eye from every quarter gets a pleasing glance of a beautiful flowering shrub and every where throughout is interspersed the aromatic myrtle which never fails to receive and delight the feathered race also adds much to the

*Editor's note: On Monday, January 25, 1819, the survey party left Rantrop's tavern and steared to Paris Island, Deer Island, and Plumb Island. On Tuesday, January 26, 1819, they sailed east into what is now called Four League Bay, but what was called Marsh Island Bay by Landreth. Until February 6, the survey party worked east of the Atchefelaya River. The report is resumed when the party heads west and then north up the Teche.

Beauty and value of this delightful spot whose shores are covered with innumerable flocks of different descriptions of aquatic Fowls such as the Pelican the cormorant Ducks of different kind cranes, willets and curlews sitting at their ease picking and dressing their plumage also majestically floating on the surface of the surrounding waters. the Finny tribes also adds much to the delight and value of this place whose surrounding waters abounds with various descriptions of the most delicious sort Such as the sheepshead, Red and black drums, Red-fish and Fufalo fish and different kinds of trouts and mullet etc etc numbers of whom in constant spring from their watery abode their silvered dress glittering in the sun gives a constant delight to the eye. The woods abound with deer and rabbits some pertridges are also found here also numbers of singer birds, the mocking and red bird etc delighted with their habitation their throats are swollen with never ending song which charm and delight the ear.

Observations on Bellisle

Bellisle contains. . . . 750 acres of high land By our Estimate has fit for present use 3036 trees suppose each tree to contain 2 ¼ tons 7590 tons of timber oil of which timber from the height of the Land can be got and carried to a good landing at letter A at any season and any vessel which could come into the Atchafalaye Bay could come almost up to the landing if not quite up at any rate they could come up to the mouth of the little Bayou at letter K within less than a quarter of a mile of the Landing. The soil of this island is of the very first quality I ever saw. it appears to be a choice collection of the very richest particles of Earth collected together into one spot and moulded into the most elegant form. this is one of nature's rarest works. this island rises gradually from North and south end meets in a beautiful plain or level upon the top and the ascent is so easy and gradual as to be scarcely an inconvenience or perceptible to the Eye and never will be any impediment to the removal of the timber or cultivation of the soil, although the Top of this island must be at least one hundred feet in height above the common level of the surrounding marsh. to say of this island as was said of Censan of old would be speaking the truth but not one half of the truth for besides the milk and honey the productions of Censan which this place might easily be made to flow with, it might be made to abound with wine oil and olives and to give a relish to the wine and olives the best of green Turtle, and oysters can at all times be had with great convenience. this is the climate for the vine and the olive and if I have a right idea respecting the soil calculated for their Production Bellisle is the spot but every rose has a thorn and this picture of paradise is not without its annoyances also. The Tigre, the wolf, the Bear and wild cat are all found here and the playful squirrel also inhabits this place and mosquitoes and gnats in abundance and some alligators are seen in the surrounding waters. There is a great many elements to Bellisle (1) and from the numbers I rather suppose that none of them has a good title to it were it well looked into at any rate the United States ought to own it—by purchase or otherwise and in hopes that they do or will I have surveyed it and here follows the certificate of the Survey. [Certificate omitted.]

Mr. Hutton, the Pilot and myself after viewing the island attentively as the short time we were upon it admitted of we returned to the landing to our boat a little before two o'clock and had an observation of the sun and found the Latitude of the Landing to be 29° 27" North here we held a consultation respecting the practicability of going round the coast of the Gulph to the

1. Deuterive Dubuclet, Benoist St. Clair, and Francois Gonsoulin obtained title to the 403 acres of land comprising Belle Isle through a claim embraced in the Commissioners Report No. 33 in American State Papers. This report, dated May 1, 1815, was confirmed by an act of Congress approved April 20, 1818. A. F. Rightor and Andrew McCollum were deputy surveyors. February 12, 1822, William Johnson resurveyed the claim which was reexamined and reapproved October 1, 1824. Land Claims, La. State Land Office, Roll 282.

Mermentau in our boat and we were of unanimous in our opinion as well as Mr. Marchand (2), the officer commanding the Boat that it would be imprudent and unsafe to make the attempt from the trial we had of her both in the Gulph and Atchafalaya Bay we therefore determined to return to Franklin so we left the Landing at Bellisle at twenty minutes past twelve o'clock and started on our way to Franklin so we returned to the mouth of the little Bayou leading up to Bellisle and steered our course along the Myrtle Wax Bayou for the Atchafalaya River first North North East a quarter of a mile thence East by North a quarter of a mile thence North by West a quarter of a mile to the mouth of a Bayou on our right running Easterly nearly round Bellisle thence North East by north a quarter of a mile thence Northwest two hundred yards thence North half a mile five fathoms water thence N.W. by W a quarter of a mile to a bayou on our left running Northwest by West here we turn North by West half a mile thence East South East half a mile thence North West by West half a mile thence North East a quarter of a mile thence North North West three hundred yards thence North East by East two hundred yards thence East one hundred yards thence South South East by South one quarter of a mile to a small clump of Trees on our right.

East North East a quarter of a mile South East three quarters of a mile to a large Bayou bearing South West by West thence North East two hundred yards thence North a quarter of a mile thence North North East one quarter of a mile in five fathoms water thence North by West one mile the Bayou forty yards wide thence North East by East two hundred yards thence South East by South one quarter of a mile thence East by North one quarter of a mile thence North East one mile and three quarters in six fathoms water thence East a quarter of a mile a small bayou on our right running Easterly thence North East by North half a mile to the mouth of a bayou into which we steer North by West one quarter of a mile in three and a half fathoms water the bayou we left keeping on nearly in the same course of the last reach we came in it thence North by East a quarter of a mile we come to very handsome groves of Myrtle which gives the name to these Bayous from the great quantities of Myrtle and the Wax made from it from this place to Bellisle the marsh on each side of the Bayou, being low and not one foot of firm land except a small spot at the clump of Trees before mentioned now we steer in the bayou bordered on the left with handsome groves of myrtle and a little now and then on our right. West two hundred yards to a large bayou on our left running southerly thence North North East two hundred yards in five fathoms water thence North half a mile thence North East by East one mile in four fathoms water the Bayou now bordered with elegant groves of myrtle on each side thence North a quarter of a mile through groves of Myrtle thence North North East three quarters of a mile thence North North West half a mile thence North East by North a quarter of a mile to a bayou on our right.

running South Easterly thence west north West two hundred yards in four fathoms water still surrounded by groves of myrtle thence North by East three quarters of a mile thence North East by East one hundred yards then North North East one quarter of a mile to a bayou on our left running Westerly thence East by North one quarter of a mile here our groves of Myrtle are handsomely interspersed with the sassafras and maple now in bloom which gives additional fragrance and lustre to the whole thence South East two hundred yards thence North East half a mile in three and a quarter fathoms water thence North North East three quarters of a mile thence East North East one mile thence East one mile here we come to some scattering Live Oak of a small size intermixed with the sassafras Myrtle and Maple with some few of the beautiful Laurel which adds much to the beauty of the scenery. thence North East by North one mile here we have plenty of alligators again thence East North East half a mile here we have some small Live Oak on our right and marsh on our left the Live Oak on our right grows on a narrow margin of about fifteen yards wide and marsh behind it East half a mile here the Live Oak

leaves us altogether thence North East two hundred yards thence East by North half a mile here we come to some Live Oak again on our right of a small size thence south a quarter of a mile here we come to Live Oak on both sides thence North by West a quarter of a mile Live Oak on both sides North North East two hundred yards thence East three hundred yards Live Oak on both sides and better both in quantity and quality thence North by East a quarter of a mile Live Oak on both sides increasing in quantity and quality thence South East by East half a mile almost dark to the Atchafalaya River about three miles below the house of Mr. Berwick on Barwick's Bay. (3) So now we steer up the Atchafalaya River and Berwick's bay to the River Teche thence up the Teche to Rentropes where we arrive safe at eight o'clock PM all very tired and the men much fatigued with rowing and our stores in Liquor being all expended we had nothing to stimulate them in that way. when we got to Rentropes the family was all gone to bed we had to call them up to get us some supper our stores on board of every kind nearly exhausted here we take up our lodging for the night.

Sunday morning February the seventh Eighteen hundred and nineteen at Rentropes on the Teche. got up at Sun Rise and prepare for a start for Franklin. Slept tolerably well last night. but I do not feel well this morning Mercury in the Thermometer 66° the air very damp and cloudy here we paid off our pilot having no further use for him leave Rentropes at nine o'clock AM wind right ahead and a strong current also against us got to Magub's at twelve o'clock noon seven miles up the River from Rentropes here we stop and get our dinner very cloudy and likely for rain got dinner at Magub's and start again at two o'clock P.M. with a fair wind which soon shifts and blows fresh ahead we have been truly unfortunate with respect to the wind and a strong current against us also so we go but slow arrive at Franklin at 9 o'clock PM I was truly glad when we arrived at Franklin for it now looks like a second home having staid there some Days before and Mr. Reed (4) the tavern keeper is a very kind obliging man and keeps good a House as he possibly can from the supplies the place affords here I received a letter from Washington the first I had received since I left home which gave me great pleasure to hear all was well at home.

Monday February the 8th Eighteen hundred and nineteen at Franklin got up here before Sun Rise Mercury 66° very cloudy and dark and soon begins to rain thunder and lighten severely which continued until about noon when the Earth was completely covered with water I felt truly happy that we were in Franklin for what must our situation have been had we been on the coast of the Gulph in our open boat and search high ground enough along the coast to encamp upon unless we can meet with a shell Bank Which is the best lodging to be found on the coast of the Gulph of Mexico. went to bed at 9 o'clock PM glad to do so in a tight House.

Tuesday February the ninth Eighteen hundred and nineteen I slept well last night and feel much better got up before Sun Rise Mercury 69° warm for the season wind blowed very hard in the night very dark and cloudy and likely for rain saw this day Peers in blossom and upon them an Inch long Turnip in full bloom going to seed and Kale also Peach trees in full bloom and trees of every kind. budding grass is every where green and in the low ground good feeding for cattle sheep and horses such is the climate here but it is generally said that this is the mildest winter ever remembered for many years at least.

3. Thomas Berwick was born in Pennsylvania about 1740; he died in St. Landry Parish in 1789. Berwick was a surveyor in the Opelousas area as early as 1784. He later moved to the Atchafalaya where, in 1811, his heirs were confirmed to the title of 1,600 arpents of land on Berwick Bay. The known children of Thomas Berwick and his wife, Eleanor Wallace, were Joseph, Mary, Eleanor, David, and Ann Dawson. Mary Elizabeth Sanders, Selected Annotated Abstracts of St. Mary Parish, La., Marriage Book I, 1811-1829 (Privately printed, 1973).

4. For Isaac Reed, see "The Journal of John Landrath," *Attkapap Gazette*, XIV (Fall, 1979), 105.

February the tenth Eighteen hundred and nineteen got up before Sun Rise a beautiful clear morning but much colder than it has been for several days past Mercury at Sun Rise down to 50o constantly engaged yesterday and today in writing

February the Eleventh Eighteen hundred and nineteen at Sun Rise this morning wind blowing very fresh from the South East and very foggy Mercury in the Thermometer 61o the wind blows fresh from the Eastward all day.

February the twelfth Eighteen hundred and nineteen at Sun Rise Mercury 64o the wind blowed very fresh throughout the night and shifted to the North West blowed a gale with severe Thunder and lightning and a great fall of rain. have been busily employed all day writing as well as every day that I have been here in Franklin this time and altho Franklin is a small inconsiderable place I have never taken the time to walk round it yet.

Saturday February the thirteenth Eighteen Hundred and nineteen at Sun Rise Mercury down to 44o this is the coldest morning but one that I have yet seen in this country and it continues so throughout the Day at Sun down Mercury 62o

Sunday February the fourteenth Eighteen hundred and nineteen at Sun Rise Mercury 50o Still cold for the Season this is the Sabbath of the Lord in it thou shalt not do any kind of work but here on the Sabbath every kind of labour is performed the same as any other day of the week. no such thing as preaching.

they do not even make it a day of rest for their poor or slaves and working animals. such is the laws and customs of this country

February the fifteenth Eighteen hundred and nineteen at Sun Rise Mercury 57o a fine clear morning wind Southerly this day I received letters from home which gave me great pleasure to hear all was well This Day I also met and was introduced to Doctor James Hannin (5) who lives about seven miles above Franklin on the Teche this Gentleman is an Irish man by birth but came very young to this country and practiced Medicine in Maryland for several years where he married a wife in St. Mary's county on the western shore formerly a Miss Waters. Doctor Hannin is a very genteel man a man of Education and talents and apparently a very pious man which is a very rare thing to be met with in this country Doct Hannin has a Son a lawyer in New Orleans a very respectable young man. We intend to start in the morning for New Iberie so I shall conclude for this Day end go and make some preparations and try and get a good nights rest

Tuesday Morning February the sixteen Eighteen hundred and nineteen got up Early this morning prepering for a start Mercury at Sun Rise 69o cloudy and raining at nine o'clock AM started from Franklin for New Iberie and so steer up the Teche first North by East one mile in ten feet water the land on the right side very low and the Land on the left tolerably high and good thence East North East two miles the Lands on the left still high and good on the right very low thence East by North a quarter of a mile Lands on the left still high and good and on the right low and on the right very low thence North by West a quarter of a mile Lands nearly the same as before on each side of the River thence North North West one mile to Mr. Richardsons (6) a Scoteman whose plantation is on the left of the River and very fine Lands on the Right Still low

5. James Hennen, an early doctor in the area, was married to Ann Waters. He died in New Orleans in April, 1820. St. Mary Parish Successions, No. 106.

Catherina Hennen, daughter of James Hennen and Ann Waters, married Alexander Frere in 1812, and another daughter, Elizabeth Yates, married Thomas Gates in 1814. A son, Alfred, was born in Maryland in 1786. Senders, Morriage Book, p. 104.

By October 20, 1820, when Dr. Hannan's succession was filed, both Eliza Hennen and her husband Thomas Gates and Catherina Hennen Frere had died. Ann Waters Hannen died in Philadelphia, June 1823, leaving her son Alfred and two grandchildren, Caroline Frere and Eliza Gates, as heirs. Alfred Hennen, a lawyer, died in New Orleans in 1870. Mary Elizabeth Senders, Annotated Abstracts of Successions of St. Mary Parish, 1811-1824 (Privately printed, 1972), pp. 47-48.

6. Two Richardsons were living on Bayou Teche in 1819. Their plantations appeared to have been only a mile or two apart. John G. Richardson, a native of South Carolina, moved to St. Mary Parish a short time after 1813. His son, Francis D. Richardson, a native of Wilkinson County, Mississippi Territory, was for fifty years a sugar planter on Bayou Teche. Ponter's Banner, April 8, 1848.

From the mouth of the Teche to Pontropes
about half a mile - - - - -

From Pontropes to Magacha about
seven miles - - - - -

From Magacha to Reede Bayou
about four miles - - - - -

From the mouth of Reede Bayou
to Doct' Towles about $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles

From Doct' Towles to Franklin
about ten miles and a half - -

From Franklin to New Iberia about
forty two miles - - - - -

From New Iberia to St. Martinsville
about twenty seven miles - - - - -

The above distances are by the course
of the River Teche - - - - -





thence North by West one mile and a quarter a little short of the end of this distance a Mr. Baker (7) has an excellent Plantation on the left end about half way between Mr. Baker and Mr. Richardsons there is a very fine plantation belonging to a Mrs. Finch (8) thence from North West to West one mile and a half nearly at the beginning of this distance a plantation belonging to Mr. Sterling (9) on our left all along on the left of the River on the last course on the right still very low thence South West two miles land on both sides in woods on the left high end fine and on the right low thence West one mile lands still the same on both sides thence North West one mile to Doctor James Hinnins on the left here is an excellent plantation and handsomely improved for this country thence North by East two miles the lands nearly the same in quality and situation as above thence North one mile still continues nearly the same on both sides of the River thence North West by North half a mile Lands still the same with very little variation thence West South West three miles this is called the Indian Beech here on the left bank of the River about two hundred yards back from the river are a number of Indian cabins built nearly in a row in a parallel direction with the River some distance apart from each other say from fifty to a hundred yards apart and in this way they extend nearly the whole beach of about three miles.

These cabins have a neat light appearance covered and shut in entirely with the leaves of the palmetto which keeps out the rain very well. Saw a number of children and young Indians running about in front of one cabin saw two or twelve Indian children of different sexes and ages running about. This is beautiful high rich and waving prairie Land thence West by North half a mile to a Mr. Frieres (10) on our left this Plantation is very fine land but on the right hand side of the river still very low thence West North West one mile to where we come to end stop for the night about Sun down all very wet having had several smart showers of rain during the Day here we pitch our tent about a hundred yards back from the River on a fine high waving open prairie the Lands from Franklin to this place on the left hand or west side of the River Teche is very fine high enough for any kind of cultivation and there are a number of very fine and valuable plantations or settlements upon it but very

William Richardson was apparently a native of South Britain since his will names a brother and a sister, both living in that area, as his heirs. A deposition given by his two nephews, Bryce and George Elliott, stated that Richardson died September 23, 1833, and that his remains were interred on his plantation the same day. Sanders, Annotated Successions, pp. 157-158.

7. Records show that William Finch was living in the area in 1818. February 1, 1819, two weeks before Lendreth's account, Finch married Ann Tinker Smith Watson. She was a native of Nessee Island of Providence. She first married David Smith, by whom she had two sons, David and James. Secondly, she married John M. Watson. From neither this marriage nor her subsequent marriage to Finch were there any children. Ann Finch lived less than a year after her marriage to William Finch. In the absence of relatives, William Richardson, probably a neighbor, became undertaker of her youngest son, James. Sanders, Successions, pp. 46-47.

9. Louis and Alexander Sterling, sons of Alexander Sterling, owned a plantation and fifty-eight slaves in this locality in 1813. Both men were prominent citizens in St. Mary Parish for many years. *Planters' Bonner*, April 6, 1848.

The Richardsons, Finch, Baker, and Sterling plantations were located about midway of bayou bend, now known as Irish Bend.

10. Alexander Frere owned a plantation with twenty-seven slaves on Bayou Teche. His first wife was Marie-Joseph Pellerin, daughter of Gregoire Pellerin and Cecile Prejean, whose plantation was located between the present sites of Adeline and Charenton. Alexander and Marie-Joseph had two children, a daughter who married Gabriel Fusilier de la Claire in 1822 and one son, Joseph Alexander. After the death of his first wife, Frere married Ann Hennen. They had one daughter. See above, footnote 5.

In 1817, after the death of his second wife, Frere married Louise Pecot. Sanders, Marriage Book, pp. 19, 36, 66. After Alexander's death, his sons, Frederick and Joseph Alexander continued to develop the plantation. *Planters' Bonner*, February 17, April 6, 1848.

little attention is paid to show elegance or convenience in their buildings. most of which are mud or clay wells without a simple pane of glass to keep out the rain and let in the light and many of these plantations yielding annually to their owners from forty to sixty thousand dollars but such is the taste and custom of the country. from Franklin to this place on the right hand or East side of the river the Land is too low generally for profitable cultivation unless in rice and for that the Land must be drained and reclaimed at a considerable expense it being almost a continued bog but there are some few points when the Land is a little higher and more firm upon which there are about three or four small inconsiderable settlements made. the River from Franklin to this place is generally about forty yards wide and from nine to ten and twelve feet water and there is plenty of (illegible) growing in the river just beginning to show their yellow blossom nature has done much for this country but the inhabitants have done but little for themselves except in the accumulation of wealth they have benarely left intirely uncultivated their minds and their soil as to the necessaries and conveniences of life and no soil or climate is better calculated every necessary conveniency and even the Luxuries of Life and from the great fertility of the soil they are enabled to keep a continual feast for their minds were they only deposed to receive or had an appetita for it. I could readily excuse them for not endeavouring to procure the more expensive and destructive luxuries of Life but they can never be excused for not endeavouring to procur as much of the necessaries and conveniences of life as would make them live comfortably and they are for ever inexcusable for all together neglecting the cultivation of their minds. this digression has only reference to what I call the natives of the place the criols descendants of the french and Spaniards and dont apply at all to the true Americans emigrants to this country

February the 17th Eighteen hundred and nineteen this morning very cloudy and likely to rain at Sun Rise Mercury 52o meke an early start from our encampment and steer up the Teche West North West two miles a fine plantation on our left some tolerable houses and a large peach orchard in full bloom the dwelling house pretty large and mud coated thence West North West one mile a good looking plantation on our left tolerable, well improved for this country thence North West by North one mile on this course a good looking plantation on the left and at the end of the course a very fine looking plantation with a number of Negroes upon it thence North West by West three miles to a small settlement on our right and a tolerable good one on our left here the land on the right begins to rise a little in height thence North West by West two miles to Doctr Thrustins (11) on our right and a little back a very good one on our left belonging to Mr. Sorrel (12) and immediately opposite Doctr Thrustins a fine plantation on the left belonging to Mr. Burrel. (13) went on shore at Doctr Thrustins and staid a few minutes. Doctr Thrustins is a native of Maryland or Virginia. from Doctr Thrustins North West by West one mile a very fine plantation on our left and another a little below thence North

11. Dr. Alfred Thruston was born in Virginia on May 14, 1778. He was the son of the Rev. Charles Mynn Thruston and Ann Alexander and the uncle of Mary Clare Conrad, wife of David Weeks, and of Ann Alexander Towles. Thruston married Elizabeth Hudson in St. Mary Parish on December 13, 1818. He had served as a doctor in the United States Army. He died in St. Mary Parish in early 1822. Senders, Successions, pp. 58, 169.

12. Jacques Sorrel had settled on a Spanish land grant on Bayou Teche in 1768. On June 1, 1768, he applied for a grant of twenty-five arpents front on Bayou Teche by sixty arpents depth, at a place called Isle Ronde. However, he was awarded six arpents front by thirty arpents depth. "Land Grant to Jacques Sorrel," June 1, 1768, MSS 79, folder 2, Historic New Orleans Collection.

After Sorrel's death, his son Joseph succeeded to the ownership of the plantation. When he applied for American certification of title to his father's grant, according to the Act of Congress of 1807, his claim of 2,074.94 acres was confirmed. American State Papers, Public Lands, III, 177, 183. For location of this grant, see Gertrude C. Taylor, Land Grants Along the Teche, Part II.

13. This plantation was probably the property of the heirs of Joseph Borel, eldest son of Pierre Borel and Catherine Toupert, whose succession took place in 1817. Senders, Successions, p. 22. His many heirs were listed in the succession of his son Pierre, opened in 1836. St. Mary Parish Successions, No. 376.

West by West three miles to a very fine plantation belonging to a Mr. Olivier (14) on our left with three others all adjoining before we got to Mr. Oliviers. Mr. Oliviers is the best House I have seen on the river since we left Franklin there is a small clearing opposite Mr. Oliviers with a road leading through it down to the river thence North West by West five miles to New Iberie where we arrived at one o'clock pm here we intend staying one night. from Doctr. Thrustins to New Iberie the Land on both sides of the River very fine high waving high land many delighfull situations to build upon upon the left hand or west side of the river there is a continued series of plantations of very fine land from Doctr. Thrustins to New Iberie and on the right several very fine plantations the distance from Franklin to New Iberie by water up the Teche is about forty two miles the river is generally about forty yards wide and from nine to ten feet water New Iberie is quite a small place only one private House and a Tavern and the Tavern serves for Post Office, Custom House and Tavern as for a church they are of Little consequence in this country. New Iberie stands on a very high and handsome situation and the Land around very rich and fine here I saw fine white clover growing at this moment good pasture and what they call Buffalo clover six inches high which makes fine pasture and I dare say would make very fine hay the soil here is a rich loam of a redish colour. the Tavern is kept by a Mr. Pintard a Frenchman who married an English woman in Philadelphia she was born in Liverpool and brought up in the Isle of Men. (15) they keep an excellent House considering the supplies to be had in this country here we met with Mr. Ahorn, Post Master and Nevel Officer or collector. (16) he is from New England. he is intelligent obliging kind and hospitable did everything in his power to oblige us. there is several small vessels laying here some of which Mr. Ahorn has seized in the disgracefull smuggling trade carried on in this country Mr. Ahorn has lived in this country several years and says he never enjoyed such good health anywhere this is certainly a fine country and if only settled with inhabitants from the old States would be a truly a desirable country Spent the afternoon very agreeable looking round this fine high rich open prairie country and went to bed early.

(to be continued)

14. The Mr. Olivier mentioned here is probably one of the sons of Charles Honore de Vezin who died April 24, 1815, at the age of 65 and was buried on his plantation on Bayou Teche just east of New Iberie. Sanders, Successions, p. 20. For the background and descendants of this prominent citizen of his time, see Dr. Willie Z. Bienvenu, "The Family Bienvenu of Saint Martinville," *Attakapas Gazette*, XV (Spring, 1960), 11.

15. Henry Pintard's tavern was located between the present Iberie and Bridge streets in New Iberie. Pintard was a merchant and native of St. Roman de Sevenne in the French Province of Languedoc. In 1821, at the age of 70, he married Esther Teere who had brought her nephew, Henry Frederick Duperier to New Iberie. For more on Teere and Duperier see Glenn R. Conrad, comp., *New Iberie: A History of the Town and Its People* (Lafayette, 1979), p. 58.

16. Joseph Ahorn owned property (bought from the succession sale of Henry Pintard) which he later sold to David Weeks. *Ibid.*, pp. 58, 80.

This was Lendreth's second allusion to the disgraceful smuggling trade carried on at that time. March 6, 1819, the Louisiana Legislature adopted a resolution ordering the governor of the state to solicit from the United States a sufficient Nevel force to be stationed on our coasts to protect them from "pirates which desolate them." *Laws of Louisiana, 1819*, p. 134.

THE BIENVENU FAMILY OF ST. MARTINVILLE

Willie Z. Bienvenu, M.D.

(Continued from Vol. XV, No. 1)

Marie Jeanne Aspasie Devince Bienvenu, oldest daughter of Alexandre Devince Bienvenu and Henriette de Latil was born November 20, 1785, died November 28, 1810, age 25 years. On the 1810 tax list for the Attakapas, they owned property with seventeen arpents frontage on Bayou Teche and nineteen slaves. She married Pierre Olivier du Clozel de Vezin on March 2, 1802. They had five children:

- A. *Charles Olivier du Clozel*, born March 5, 1803, married December 20, 1821, Emeranthe Latiolais, born December 4, 1801, died 1898.
1. Charles Ovignac, born August 28, 1825, died 1902, married Elodie Mouton.
 - 1) Pierre, born April 19, 1852, died April 1921, married Edolia Simpson
 1. Samuel, born August 9, 1875, died July 9, 1941, married Martha Jane Noguess
 - 1) Grace, born September 3, 1898, married Henry Thomas Moss
 2. Oleus, born September 26, 1896, married Myra Peveto
 - 3) Winnie, born December 22, 1900, married Adam Smith
 - 4) Roy, born April 30, 1903, died August 1903
2. Wilmer, born September 17, 1878, died June 4, 1924, married Coralie Mouton, born October 31, 1884, died November 13, 1967
 - 1) Ruth Marie, born April 1, 1904, married Gabriel Holleyman
 - 2) Roy Antoine, born March 5, 1905, died December 30, 1951, unmarried
 - 3) Ruby Cecilia, born April 12, 1907, married Joseph E. Borel
 4. Bertha Myrtle, born November 18, 1908, married Earl Laverne Miller
3. Hermon Mierre, born November 7, 1879, died May 28, 1952, married Ida Mary Fitzgerald
 - 1) Hazel Cecilia, born July 30, 1903, married Harry Chauffe
 - 2) Irma, born September 25, 1908, married David B. Miller
 - 3) Hermon Pierre, Jr., born September 29, 1910, died December 18, 1910
 - 4) Leo Pierre, born April 17, 1913, married Elbay Miller
 - 5) Orville Kay, born January 2, 1917, married Della M. Day
4. Mary Edolia, born January 5, 1881, died July 20, 1942, married Winfield, C. "Cap" Whitman
 - 1) Merle Eloise, born January 25, 1901
 - 2) Flora Melba, born April 26, 1902
 - 3) Marjorie Adele, born July 23, 1903, married J. M. McKee
 - 4) Elsie Mae, born May 20, 1905, married Byron B. Rowland
 - 5) Winfield Carroll, born August 15, 1907, married Lillian Josephine Barbin
 - 6) Mary Elizabeth, born July 15, 1911
 - 7) Mildred, born November 12, 1914, married Francis M. Brasher
5. John Hutton, born July 4, 1882, died January 6, 1960, married Carmelite Cecilia Babin

- 1) Chester John, born May 15, 1905, died November 1905
 - 2) Upton John, born February 10, 1907, married Vivian Costanza
 - 3) Olive Mary, born February 28, 1909, married John T. Watts
 - 4) James John, born December 9, 1912, died December 14, 1944 (Battle of the Bulge, World War II)
6. George Earl, born February 29, 1883, died, February 29, 1916, married Sadie Barker
- 1) George Earl, Jr., born October 3, 1913
7. Luke, born 1886, died 1941, married Orelia Castille
8. Marie Eloise, born February 16, 1889, married James W. Alford
- 1) James W., Jr., born September 22, 1914, married Majorie Wilson
 - 2) George Edward, born April 16, 1920, married Margaret Miguez
 - 3) Marie Eloise, born December 17, 1922, married P. A. Smith
 - 4) Robert Beryl, born April 12, 1928
9. Ernest Joseph, born May 25, 1891, died July 14, 1959, married Lucinda Richard
- 1) Joyce Edolia, born September 29, 1912, married Everett Miller
 - 2) Rose Mary, born March 11, 1918, married Oran Lee Owens
- 2) Pearl, born July 1848, married Charles Guerinere, Jr., born 1848
1. Marie Josephine Elodie, born March 9, 1872, married Florian Cornay
 - 1) Willie J. married Nita Comezux
 - 2) Ray married Katherine Lyman
 - 3) Adele married Dr. George L. Smith
 - 4) Fred J. married Louise Landry
 - 5) Howard J. married Louise Bossier
 2. Marie Hersilie, born November 9, 1873, married Evans Guidroz
 - 1) Pearl married Louis Smith
 - 2) Charles married Eula Breauux
 - 3) Lee
 3. Charles Olivier, born March 17, 1876
 4. Marie Pearl, born March 14, 1878, married Maurice Polingue
 - 1) Lucille, born December 15, 1904, unmarried
 5. Josephine Laure, born March 19, 1882, married Edward Albert Greenwood, no children.
 6. Blanche, born April 4, 1886, died August 7, 1967, married Walter Donlon
 - 1) Genevieve married Harold Dietlein
 - 2) Lewis A. married Florence Guchereaux
 - 3) Walter J., Jr.
 7. Gaston, born February 28, 1889, married Marry Whittington

- 1) John, died in childhood
- 2) James, died in childhood
- 3) Charles, married Marie Gladu
- 4) Gloria married Warren Salomon

8. Alice, born May 29, 1893, married Tolson Darby

- 1) Joyce, born November 14, 1915, died March 6, 1918
- 2) Pearl Joyce, born March 19, 1918, married Lee Robert Cook
- 3) Alice Joyce, born August 11, 1920, married Frank Browning
- 4) Loyce, born February 4, 1923, died April 28, 1968, married Charles H. Weston
- 5) Mary Ann, born March 10, 1928, married Gerald O. Wright

3) Jean Ovignac, Jr., born October 17, 1855, married Celeste Guidry

1. Armide, born September 11, 1885, died June 9, 1932, married Alexandria Colbert Guidry
 - 1) Aline, born December 24, 1903, married Cletus Bonvillian
 - 2) Mary Lou, born August 10, 1906
 - 3) Thomas E., born June 6, 1908, married Gladys Bertrand
 - 4) Vivian, born April 9, 1914

2. Charles, born August 11, 1886, married Launcie Comeaux

- 1) Eunice, born January 16, 1926, married Raymond Latiolais

3. Claiborne, born August 11, 1888, died March 23, 1950, married Editha Sonnier

- 1) Hermalie, born February 20, 1913, married Andrew Boulanger
- 2) Lucille, born September 16, 1914, married Rodney Bertrand
- 3) Rosa Belle, born August 23, 1915, married Vincent Bone

4. Mabel, born October 29, 1893, married Clovis Doucet

- 1) Gussie
- 2) Lloyd
- 3) Eric
- 4) Dennis
- 5) Charles
- 6) Isabelle

4) Charles, born February 1, 1857, died January 1, 1930, married Cora Dugat

1. Rosemond, born March 12, 1883
2. Lela, born October 21, 1888, married Clinton Vidrine
 - 1) Lucille, born February 28, 1916
3. Alfred, born September 28, 1890, married Philomene Martin
 - 1) Martha Mae, born February 15, 1934, married Richard Dupuis
4. Rex E., born September 14, 1892, married Eloise Martin
 - 1) Anna Belle, born December 15, 1916, married Harry Sallenger
 - 2) Kearney, born November 15, 1918, married Dorothy Romero
 - 3) Louella, born April 8, 1921, married Luke Breaux

- 5) Sedonie, born February 22, 1865, died January 26, 1939, married Adolph Judice
 1. Isabelle, born February 11, 1889, unmarried
 2. Mae, born May 1, 1892, married Charles Haines
 3. Edna, born August 27, 1894, died December 3, 1942, married Adolph Preval
"A. P." Broussard
 - 1) Rhena Marie, born, June 18, 1919, married Marcel M. Bienvenu
 1. Henri Clay, born September 21, 1941
 2. Marcelle Rhena, born February 26, 1945
 3. Edna Marie, born December 2, 1948
 4. Bruce Anthony, born April 3, 1952
 - 2) Curtis Anthony, born October 22, 1921, married Mildred "Tommy"
Dolan
 1. Curtis William, born May 4, 1945
 2. William Curtia, born November 6, 1946
 3. Susan, born March 24, 1953
 - 3) Lois Genevieve, born March 29, 1924, married Aymar Denais
 1. Denise Blache, born October 3, 1957, married 2nd John L. Germany, Sr.
 2. John L., Jr., born May 22, 1962
 3. Sheila Genevieve, born August 27, 1963
 - 4) Adolph Preval, Jr., born July 31, 1931, married Margaret Fuselier
 1. Wanda Grace, born April 19, 1953
 2. Loyla, born August 3, 1956
 3. Joan, born, April 3, 1961
 4. Trudy, born July 10, 1962
- 6) Emaranthe married Gaston Gardemal
 1. Charles Gaston, born August 10, 1882, died December 28, 1936, married
Dorcianna Bertrand
 - 1) Isola Marie, born April 15, 1903, married Charles C. Jaubert
 - 2) Nadia, born March 10, 1910, died April 16, 1917
 - 3) Pearl, died age 3 months
 - 4) Zita Theresa, born February 19, 1914, married Harry Cook
 - 5) Louis Gaston, born August 24, 1919, married Romaine Smith
 2. Emery Gabriel, born May 29, 1890, married Constance Blanche Toffier
 - 1) W. Gabriel, born November 12, 1914, married Adella M. Fajlek
 - 2) Carmen Elizabeth, born May 5, 1916, married Martin Earl Eubanks
 - 3) Vivian Ann, born July 22, 1918, married Ray D. Hillum
 - 4) Mary Joyce, born May 8, 1923, married Felix Ward
 3. Pearl
 4. Lilly married Phillip Wiltz, nine children
 5. Wilfred married Aminthe Broussard
 - 1) Antoine married Cecile Prince
 - 2) Sadie
 - 3) Enola married Willis Landry
 - 4) Wilmer married Eula Champagne

6. Olivier married Almee Laviolette
 - 1) Willie, born December 2, 1908, married Lydia Champagne
 - 2) Marcel married Linda Dugas
 - 3) Gilbert married Kathleen Havino
 - 4) Anna Lou, born October 26, 1915, married Romain Lasseigne
 - 5) Percy married Rosalie Gandusa
 - 6) Zerben married Mildred Arceneaux
 - 7) Ann married Allen Judice
 - 8) Emaranthe, born November 30, 1928, married Harold Dugas
7. Mamie married Salvadore Savorice
 - 1) Leo
 - 2) Doris
 - 3) Lillian
- 7) Earnest married Louise Gentel
 1. Earnest married Mabel Raymond
 2. Jules, no children
 3. Louise, died 1951, married Maurice J. Naquin, Sr.
 - 1) Maurice, Jr., born 1931
 - 2) Sister Maurice, Daughter of Charity, born 1934
 - 3) Rhea, born 1936, married Waynet Gonzales
 4. Elodie, no children
 5. Lucy
 6. Raoul
2. D'Erneville Charles, born March 10, 1830, died April 5, 1899, married October 11, 1849, Marie Corinne Mouton, born November 21, 1813.
 - 1) Louis Carlos, born 1854, married Theresa Fuseilier
 1. "Ti-Coon"
 2. Louise married Albert G. Olivier
 - 2) Charles d'Erneville, Jr., born October 17, 1856, married Noemie Haines
 1. Anita married Fergust Fuseller
 2. Albert G. married Louise Olivier
 3. Amelie married Amedee Poleynard
 4. Agnes married Frank Fournet, married 2nd Constance Mouret
 5. Willie
 6. Corinne
 3. Corinne, born 1858, married Martin Mouton
 - 4) Gaston, baptized February 12, 1861, died in childhood
 - 5) Paul, born January 28, 1862, married Amelia Duchamp
 1. Paul, Jr.
 2. Ramosita, born February 14, 1881, married Samuel R. Dent
 3. Lucy, born June 10, 1888, married Sylvio Molbert
 4. Daisy married Giulbert McCordal, 2nd Octave Richard
 5. Arthur married Ella Mae Schsinder
 6. Hilda Marie, born September 30, 1908, married 1st Arlia McAfee, married 2nd Edward Peacock

- 6) Noemie, born 1864, married Joseph Babba, 11 children
- 7) Noelle, born 1864 (twin), married Louis Broussard, 6 children
- 8) Bertha, born May 3, 1886, died November 27, 1953, married Ulysse Trosclair, 8 children
 1. Walter married Angelle Cormier
 - 1) Leona, born October 21, 1930, married Dudley J. David
 1. Dudley J., Jr., born June 6, 1949
 2. Toni Marie, born August 25, 1953
 3. William Walter, born August 20, 1960
- 9) Louis Valsin, born May 4, 1868, died September 25, 1925, married Marie Eliska Bourque
 1. Amedee Louis, born January 18, 1894, married Cora Louviere
 - 1) Helen Frances, born, January 12, 1926, married P. R. Cioffi
 2. Daniel Jerome, born November 18, 1896
 - 1) Virginia, born January 25, 1923, married Dr. Ernest Yongue
 - 2) Charlotte, born October 19, 1924, married George Billeaud, Jr.
 - 3) Dorothy, born August 11, 1926, married William P. Miller, II
 3. Gaston Joseph, born September 27, 1901, married Emma Molander
 - 1) Joyce Rita, born February 15, 1925, married Gene A. Hicks
 - 2) Evelyn Marie, born December 19, 1927, married Harley Gott
- 10) Rene, born 1872, married Armanca Trosclair, 8 children
- 11) Alfred, born 1874, married Laura Gaudet, no children
- 12) Emile, born August 9, 1877, died January 7, 1898, married Theresa Champeaux, 6 children
- 13) Felix married 1875 Josephine Lognaud, no children, married 2nd Amate Romero, 11 children

B. *Marie-Cecile Aspasie*, born April 23, 1804; married January 11, 1827, Jacques Fontenet, Jr.

1. Octavie, married Richard Eastin, born 1875.
2. Edolie, married Titus Gardemal, Jr.
 1. Gabie
 2. Louis
3. Gaston, married Euphemie Olivier

C. *Charlotte Eliza*, born March 25, 1809, married Alexandre Francois, chevalier de la Houssaye, on April 14, 1827.

1. Aspasie, married Oneziphore de la Houssaye, born 1819.
 1. Berthe, born 1863
 2. Louise, born 1865
 3. Richard, born 1868
 4. George, born 1870
 5. James, born 1873

D. *Henriette Anaspasie*, born November 27, 1810, married January 29, 1831, *Francois Alexandre Bienvenu*, born 1805, son of *Alexandre Devince, Jr.*, and *Uranie de la Barre*.

1. *Aspasie*, born October 1831; died December 22, 1832, age 14 months.
2. *Marie Uranie*, born November 18, 1832; died November 19, 1836, age 4 years.
3. *Philemene Elodie*, born October 16, 1836; died October 1, 1866; married *Charles Gueriniere Bienvenu*, son of *Pierre Terville* and *Sophie de Kerlegand*, on January 20, 1858; no children.
4. *Francois Alexandre*, born May 6, 1839.
5. *Louise*, born 1845, unmarried.
6. *Beim Francoise*, married *Alexandre Bienvenu*.
7. *Amelina*, born 1850.

(*Ida Marie Chauffa Maylan, The Olivier de Vezin Family and the Chauffe Family*, privately published, 1967.)

*Descendants of
Thomas Raphael Thimecourt Bienvenu*

Thomas Raphael Thimecourt Bienvenu, third child of *Alexandre Devince Bienvenu* and *Henriette de Latil*, was born October 14, 1787, and died August 29, 1833, age 47 years, "at his brother's: *Alexandre Bienvenu*." He married July 5, 1807, *Elize Veillon*, daughter of Doctor (Surgeon) *Louis Veillon* (son of *Jean Veillon* and *Francoise Aubert* of New Orleans) and *Marie Perrine Soudrique* (born February 22, 1771; daughter of *Martin Soudrique*, born January 8, 1741; and *Perrine Baro*, born June 1730) of *Pointe Coupee*.

At the Battle of New Orleans, War of 1812, *Thimecourt* served as a private in Captain *Joseph Dubuclet's* Volunteer Troop of *Teche-Attakapas Hussars (Cavalry)*.

NOTE

The 1810 Tax List of Landowners and Slaveowners of the Attakapas states they owned property having 6 arpents frontage on the Bayou and six slaves. They had eight known children:

A. *Louis Thimecourt*, born September 20, 1808; died November 1, 1815; age 6 years.

B. *Elise*, born 1809; died November 18, 1829, age 20 years.

C. *Marie Felicite*, born April 12, 1812; died October 20, 1821, age 9 years.

D. *Edouard*, born June 12, 1814; died October 6, 1814.

E. *Louise Constance Amelina*, born December 19, 1815; died October 23, 1836; married November 12, 1832, *Casimir Bienvenu*, son of *Alexandre Devince, Jr.*, and *Charlotte Uranie de la Barre*.

1. *Marie*, born October 18, 1834.

F. Marie Olympe, born October 30, 1823; died November 24, 1887; married April 7, 1842, Joseph Laurent Ducrest.

1. Joseph Laurent, Jr., born June 5, 1851; married March 28, 1871, Cidalise Voorhies, born December 29, 1850; daughter Edgar Voorhies and Euzeide Martin.

1. Marie Lucie, married December 20, 1892, Daniel W. Voorhies, born 1867.

1. Donald, married Lucy Martin

1. Mary Virginia, married Mike Hebert

2. Elizabeth (Betty)

2. Pauline, born February 27, 1897; married Lawrence Bonin

1. Curtis, born November 21, 1929, married Joy Huet.

2. Clare, born January 1, 1931; married Harold Kattner.

3. Daniel W., born October 28, 1933; married June Guidry.

4. Suzanne, born January 16, 1936; married Dr. John Wallace.

3. Claudia (Sister Mary Cecilia, R.S.M.)

4. Frances (Sister Mary Clare, R.S.M.)

5. Amy, married Patrick H. Maraist

1. Patrick H., Jr., unmarried

2. Francis

3. Robert

4. Ethel, married Durwood Babin.

5. David, married Bonnie Dugas.

6. Edward, married Rowena Fournet.

1. Eugenie, born January 7, 1940; married Robert M. Schoenfeld

2. Frances, born May 5, 24, 1941; married Robert Goliwas.

3. Daniel W., born February 25, 1946; married Andree Dicharry.

4. Rita Lucie, born October 26, 1942; married Allen Olivier.

7. Ethel (Sister Mary Lucie, R.S.M.)

8. Rita (Sister Mary Danila, R.S.M.)

2. Gabrielle, married Ubald Melancon.

1. Raymond

2. Anna, married Lionel Abshire.

3. Lawrence, married Wilma Lee Fore.

4. Joseph, married Brownie Talbot.

5. Gertrude, married Louis F. Maraist, Jr.

6. John Alfred, married Maxine Perkins.

3. Cidalise, married Charles Gauthier.

1. Robert, married Louise Meeks.

2. Willis, married Loula Mae Olivier.

3. Maurice, married Alice Atherton.

4. Blanche, married Alton Reynaud.

4. Louise, married Horter Periou.

1. Thomas, married Viva Broussard.

2. Married Therese, married Louis Castille.

5. Marie, married Dr. George de Laureal.
 1. George, married Aline Sullivan, 2 children.
 2. Carmen, married George Gardiner, no children.
 3. Celeste, married Edward Boagni, Jr.
 1. Edward Boagni, III, M.D., married Ethel Haas, M.D.
 4. Marie, unmarried.
 5. Boni J., married Dorothy Ledbetter, no children.
 6. Margaret, married Warren Taylor, 2 children.
 7. Thomas Hugh, married Laurita Evans, 3 children.
 8. David, married Eva Allen, 4 children.
 9. Paul, married Alice Hughes, 4 children.
 10. Henry Howard, married May Percy, adopted 3 children.
 11. R. Todd, married Leah Halloran, no children.
 12. Charles Felix, born 1897, died 1899.
 13. Francis, R., born 1905; died 1918.
6. Berard "Jack", married Regina St. Julien.
 1. Felix, unmarried (died in Pearl Harbor attack).
 2. Francis, married Gloria Breaux.
 3. Marcella, married Lloyd Lewis.
 4. Sylvia, married (?) Shipp.
 5. Irene, married Warren Updike.
 6. Verna, married William Bowman.
 7. Jerome
 8. Thomas
 9. Leona

G. Charles Thimecourt, born November 3, 1825; married first May 8, 1845, Elise Dejean

1. Louis Joseph, married May 14, 1867, Amelie Voorhies.
 1. Marie Elise, born March 20, 1868; married December 7, 1887, Alcide Ducrest.
 2. Joseph Louis, born March 16, 1870; died September 13, 1871.
 3. Charles Thimecourt, born June 7, 1872.
 4. Joseph Edgar, born November 8, 1874, married Constance Fuselier.
 1. Eulalie, born 1900, married Clarence Ellender.
 1. Thomas
 2. Louis, born 1903; married Alzena Cormier.
 1. Annabelle, married Clem Burnett.
 3. Jerome, born 1908; married Marie Louise Broussard.
 1. Leonard, married Dolores Freemin.
 2. Winona, married Earl Gondron.
 4. Robert A., born 1913; married Adolphine Melancon.
 1. Robert, Jr., married Betty Parrish.
 2. Dennis J., married Ethel Oubre.
 3. Sylvia, married George Oubre.
 4. Raymond, married Elaine Sandoz.
 5. Barbara, married Ronald Melancon.

5. Edgar, Jr., born 1915, married Irene Martin

1. Michael

5. Marie Olympe, born May 5, 1877.

6. Marie Rose Emma, born January 20, 1880.

7. Martin Laurent, born January 11, 1883; married Pauline Barras.

1. Martin, Jr.

2. James

3. Evelyn, married H. Castex.

8. Gabriel, married "Ni-ni" Lasseigne.

1. Gerard

2. Raymond

3. Aline

4. Jeanne

5. Grace

6. Rita

7. Amelie

Charles Thimecourt, married second February 3, 1848, Marie Françoise Nisida Mouton of Lafayette, no children.

Charles Thimecourt, married third February 20, 1851, Coralie Martin of Lafayette. She died January 1854.

2. Charles Galbert, born October 12, 1852; died 1907; married August 29, 1871, Euphemie Butcher, born 1851; died 1938.

1. Charles Thimecourt, born June 12, 1872, no children.

2. Marie Ella, born September 15, 1874; died 1936; married Alfred E. Gauthier, 8 children.

3. Suzanne Coralie, born June 12, 1878; married Dave Church, 2 children.

4. Joseph Galbert, born September 17, 1883; died 1956; no children.

5. Marie Euphemie, born April 28, 1888; unmarried.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



THE 1900 CENSUS OF NEW IBERIA

Compiled by Glenn R. Conrad
(Continued from Vol.XV, No.1)

<u>DUPERIER AVENUE</u> (cont.)	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
49 MARIE, Leonard	Aug. 1871	7				Salesman
Mary	Jan. 1873	7		Ky.		
Eliza	Dec. 1893	S				at school
LABAUVE, Abner	Oct. 1869	S (brother-in-law)				Carpenter
50 PERARO, Vincent	Dec. 1870	S	Italy (Nat., 1894)			Grocer
51 DUPERIER, Henry	Feb. 1861	18				Undertaker
Clara	June 1862	18		Germany	Germany	
Clarence	Apr. 1883	S				
J. C. ?	Jan. 1890	S				
BLANCHET, Villere	June 1861	S				
52 JUDICE, Mary	May 1836					Superior Convent
LAINA Mary	June 1863					Inmate
BROUSSARD, Ophelia	Sept 1873					Inmate
GUELFO, Mary	Apr. 1873					Inmate
BROUSSARD, Oleta	Nov. 1879					Inmate
ROMERO, Gracieuse	July 1886					Pupil
DAVID, Lelia	Apr. 1888					Pupil
BROWN, Annette	Feb. 1886					Pupil
BROUSSARD, Marie	Feb. 1885					Pupil
LEITMEYER, Lonie	July 1887					Pupil
BROWN, Gertrude	Oct 1884					Pupil
DAVID, Euphemie	June 1890					Pupil
FUSELIER, Louisa	Jan 1885					Pupil
BREAUX, Eva	Feb. 1886					Pupil
53 BROUSSARD, Ovignac	Aug. 1844	35				Day Laborer
Zoe	Dec. 1838	35				
Ella	Jan. 1881	S				
54 LAMPEREZ, John	Apr. 1841	34		Spain	Spain	Bread baker
Amelia	Jan. 1851	34		France	France	
Clotilde	May 1872	S				
Gustave	Jan. 1883	S				Day Laborer
Lena	Sept 1890	S				at school
Edwin	Jan. 1895	S				
55 MARIE, John	May 1841	32				Cooper
Aloe	Nov. 1851	32				
Gust	Apr. 1873	S				Painter
Lillia	May 1886	S				
FRENCH, Mena	May 1883	1 (daughter)				
Clarence	Dec. 1874	(son-in-law)				Carpenter

<u>DUPERIER AVENUE (cont.)</u>		Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
56	MARIE, Josephine	Nov. 1826	Wid.				
	Prosper	Jan. 1849	S				Day Laborer
	Emilie	Mar. 1855					Workwoman
	LENA, Batiste	Mar. 1840	Wid. (boarder)	Italy (Nat., 1858)			Oyster laborer
57	MEULLER, Nicolas	Jan. 1868	6				Dry goods
	Emily	Aug. 1870	6				
	Nicolas, Jr.	July 1895	S				
	Protones ?	Oct. 1897	S				
<u>IBERIA STREET</u>							
60	MARIN, James	Sept 1858	16				Grocer
	Eva	? 1863	16				
	James	Apr. 1884	S				at school
	Loubelle ?	Mar. 1886	S				at school
	Lilly	Jan. 1888	S				
	Rufus	Sept 1891	S				
	Marie	Dec. 1893	S				
	Ruby	Sept 1896	S				
62	MESTAYER, Felix	Dec. 1857	16				
	Louise	Sept 1862	16				
	Ethel	June 1886	S				at school
	Quinta	Sept 1889	S				at school
	Anna	Dec. 1890	S				at school
	Almid	Apr. 1892	S				at school
	Felix	Jan. 1893	S				
	Wilamina	Apr. 1896	S				
63	RENOUDET, Octave	Feb. 1854	15				Sawmill
	Lillie	Apr. 1867	15				
	Octave	Dec. 1885					at school
	Amilda	Apr. 1887	S				at school
	Stella	June 1891	S				at school
	George	Mar. 1896	S				
	Fred	Nov. 1898	S				
64	ELLIOT, Samuel	Nov. 1854	7	S. C.	S. C.	Va.	Saloon keeper
	Lorus	Oct. 1859	7				
	Marcus	June 1894	S				
	Mary	Feb. 1896	S				
	John	Mar. 1892	S				
65	DELHOMMER, Noemi	Dec. 1833	Wid.		France		
	Mary	Nov. 1866	S				
	Edgar	July 1870	S				Bank clerk
	Rene	Oct. 1871	S				Carpenter
	Candide	May 1878	S				Dress Maker

<u>ISERIA STREET (cont.)</u>		Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
66	GALLOIS, Adele Henry	Jan. 1837 June 1881	Wid.				Dressmaker Tele. lineman
67	HARRY, Sidney Elise Joseph Elise Mary Nicolas ? Felicie John MICHAEL, Pauline	July 1862 Dec. 1863 Feb. 1889 June 1890 Feb. 1893 July 1894 Mar. 1896 Feb. 1899 Aug. 1880	12 12 S S S S S S S (boarder)		France		Dry goods at school at school at school Governess
68	HARRY, Walter Louise Regina Seleman Alcide Irma Adele Louise Jacob	May 1859 Sept 1860 Oct 1883 Apr. 1886 July 1887 Aug. 1889 Jan. 1891 July 1893 Apr. 1846	18 18 S S S S S S S (brother)				Carpenter Day laborer
69	BOUTTE, Auro John Walter Arthur Edward Paul	May 1856 Feb. 1874 Nov. 1880 Apr. 1886 Jan. 1888 Apr. 1890	Wid.				Engineer Dry goods salesman Day laborer at school at school
77	DAVIDSON, Charles Susan BARTHE, Clifford Edwina	Dec. 1836 Oct. 1839 Mar. 1806 Feb. 1888	42 42 S (grandson) S (granddaughter)	Ohio	Ind. Maryland	Pa. Maryland	Carpenter at school at school
<u>TAYLOR STREET</u>							
82	MACKALLS, Jim Blanch	Feb. 1869 Nov. 1881	12 12		Ala.	Ala.	Broker
83	FADAVILLE, Louis Frances Lizzie Marie	Apr. 1849 June 1850 Apr. 1881 Aug. 1886	26 26 19	France (Nat., 1882) France (Nat., 1882) France (Nat., 1882)			Fisherman Day laborer at school
84	GONSQUIN, Sylvia	May 1843	Wid.				
85	DeBLANC, Martha Rose	Dec. 1846 Nov. 1876	Wid.				Schoolteacher

<u>TAYLOR STREET</u> (cont.)	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
94 TAYLOR, Kate	Nov. 1847	Wid.		Miss.	Miss.	
Louise	June 1872					Schoolteacher
John	Apr. 1875					Druggist
Mary	Sept 1878					at school
Robert	June 1880					
<u>JULIA STREET</u>						
95 BRIGANTI, Carlo	May 1874	1	Italy (Nat., 1897)			Fruit dealer
Josephine	Jan. 1880	1				
Vincent	Jan. 1900					
96 DAUNOY, Antoine	Jan. 1858	9				Sugar boiler
Laura	Nov. 1862	9				
Clarence	Apr. 1893	S				
Charles	Oct. 1894	S				
Anthony	July 1897	S				
Marie	Dec. 1898	S				
97 HALE, Willis	July 1865	1	Iowa	Ind.	Pa.	Schoolteacher
Esther	Jan. 1878	1		N. Y.		
109 CREWS, Henry	Oct. 1869	1	Miss.			Dragman
Laura	Nov. 1865	1			Ark.	
110 DAVIS, Waspelle ?	Nov. 1841	Wid.	Mias.	Pa.	Miss.	
John	Feb. 1865	1	Mias.			Attorney
Olive	Sept 1877	1	Ohio			
Billy	Feb. 1869	S	Mo.?			Real Estate agt.
Joseph	Apr. 1879	S				at school
Reginald	Sept 1881	S				at school
111 SESSAN, Emile	Mar. 1862	16				Salesman
Henriette	Aug. 1864	17				
Elenore	Mar. 1885	S				at school
Lizzie	Sept 1888	S				at school
Ada	June 1890	S				at school
William	Aug. 1892	S				at school
Paul	oct. 1894	S				
Anthony	Mar. 1900	S				
112 ROTHE, Paul	June 1868	8	Italy	(Nat., 1890)		Grocer
Rosalie	Dec. 1877	8	Italy			
Ben Gulot (sic)	Mar. 1894	S (daughter)				
Fatenia	Mar. 1898	S (daughter)				

JULIA STREET (cont.)		Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	occupation
113	BENNETT, Percy	Aug. 1872	6	Eng.			Newspaper Reporter
	Lucie	May 1872	7	Eng.			Schoolteacher
	Percy	Sept 1894	8	Kan.			at school
	Frederick	Feb. 1898	8				
	PETERS, George	June 1852	8 (boarder)	Scotland			General work
114	LANGLA, John	Apr. 1870	4		France		Carpenter
	Emelie	Apr. 1878	4				
	Pearl	Oct. 1896	8				
	Lena	apr. 1898	8				
	Gertrude	July 1899	8				
	Bernard	Feb. 1880	8 (brother)				Carpenter
118	LABAUVE, Cesar	July 1877					Dry goods salesman
	Idita	Apr. 1878					
119	ETIE, Julian	June 1878	2				Bricklayer
	Corinne	Oct. 1878	2				
	Irvin	Nov. 1899					
123	BOURG, Edgar	Oct. 1870	4				Stationery engraver
	Adeline	July 1871	4				
	Robert	Nov 1896	8				
	Mary	Apr. 1898	8				
	Louise	Sept 1899	8				
	Clarence	Mar. 1884	8 (brother)				
	STANSBURY, George	Oct. 1880	8 (brother-in-law)				Grocery clerk
	STANFORD, marcelite	Mar. 1871	8 (boarder)				
124	EWING, William	Oct. 1847	30				Fisherman
	Rebecca	Jan. 1850	30				
	Theodore	Oct. 1879					Carpenter
	John	June 1882					Bricklayer
125	LeBRUN, Pierre	July 1835		France (Nat., 1857)			Landlord
	Dominiquette	Feb. 1830	8 (sister)	France (Nat., 1857)			
126	LeBRUN, Marcelin	July 1853	25				Carpenter
	Ellen	July 1855	25	Ill.	Ohio	Maine	Seamstress
	Mabel	Sept 1876	8				schoolteacher
	RANSOM, Mary	Jan. 1870	8 (sister-in-law)	Ohio	Ohio	Maine	Seamstress
127	BOUDREAUX, Ernest	Aug. 1873	9				Day Laborer
	Alice	Dec. 1877	9				
	Mallie	Feb. 1894	8				
	Hazel	Aug. 1894	8				
	Eunice	July 1897	8				
	Milliard	June 1879	8				
	DESONIER, Urcule	July 1890	8 (mother-in-law)				

JULIA STREET (cont.)		Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
128	TOFFIER, Bertrand	Nov. 1860	28				None
	Augustine	May 1850	28				
	Joseph	June 1873					
	Charles	June 1877					
	Mary	Jan. 1874					
	Josephine	Feb. 1881					
	Blanche	July 1883					at school
	Marie	Oct. 1885					at school
	Laura	Mar. 1888					at school
	Gabriel	June 1893					at school
129	LOREAU, Joseph	Dec. 1839	Wid.				None
130	McCULLAN, James	Dec. 1858	14		Ire.	Scot.	Ship carpenters
	Margarette	May 1860	14				
	Hugh	July 1882					Day laborer
	Louisa	Mar. 1887					at school
	Margarette	Sept 1889					at school
	Lizzie	Feb. 1891					at school
	William	Oct. 1892					at school
131	VEAZEY, Louis	Oct. 1862	12				Carpenter
	Genevieve	July 1862	12				Schoolteacher
	Matele ?	Mar. 1889		Wash. D. C.			at school
	Fred ?	Nov. 1890					at school
	Louis	Aug. 1892					at school
	Genevieve	July 1894					
	Enoch	Mar. 1896	twins				
	Elliot	Mar. 1896					
132	PELLERIN, Alex	Aug. 1835	39				Notary Public
	Edzel ?	Sept 1842	39				
	Elenore	Jan. 1883					at school
	Celeste	Dec. 1885					at school
	ARMANDEZ, Eugenie	July 1874	6				
	Jules	Sept 1870	6				
	Yvonne	Oct. 1895	(granddaughter)				Sewing Mach. agent
	Jules	May 1897	(grandson)				
	ELLS, Howard	Apr. 1875	Boarder				Dry goods clerk
	ELLS, Byron	Jan. 1885	Boarder				at school
	McDANIEL, Sedonia	? 1882	Boarder				
	DUGAS, Evrard	? 1874	Boarder				Sewing mach. sales- man
	HOFFMAN, Louis	Dec. 1868	Boarder				Hardware salesman

<u>JULIA STREET</u> (cont.)	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
133 AUBRY, Victor	Aug. 1870	6				Commercial truck
Eudotte ?	Sept 1864	6				
DECUIR, Sylvia	Feb. 1884	S (stepdaugh)				at school
William	May 1886	S (stepson)				at school
Stella	Nov. 1887	S (stepdaugh)				at school
Corinne	Jan. 1892	S (stepdaugh)				at school
AUBRY, Marie	June 1896	S				
George	May 1900					
134 DUPUY, Marie	July 1845	Wid.		France		
Oscar	July 1869	S				Lumber salesman
Cabella Mary	Aug. 1872	S				
Eomer	Feb. 1878					Day laborer
Edmond	Nov. 1843	S (brother-in-law)				
135 DeGENERES, Charlotte	Apr. 1863	Wid.			N. Y.	Music teacher
Ethel	Apr. 1884					at school
Aline	Feb. 1886					at school
Florval	Jan. 1888					at school
Mary	Nov. 1889					at school
Guy	Feb. 1893					at school
Souville	Jan. 1895					
136 BENTHAL, Samuel	Nov. 1863	16	Miss.	Tenn.	Miss.	Blacksmith
Alice	Aug. 1856	16	Miss.	Miss.	Miss.	
Lois	Jan. 1885		Texas			
Willie	July 1887		Texas			
Morman	Aug. 1891					
Gayden	Dec. 1893					
137 VEAZEY, Ferdinand	May 1874	3				Grocer
Alma	Mar. 1876	3				
Freda	Feb. 1898	S				
Paul	Sept 1899	S				
LEDGER, Annie	Apr. 1837	Wid. (mother-in-law)				
138 ARNANDUZ, Celeste	May 1843	Wid.		Spain	Spain	
Nettie	Aug. 1881	S (granddaughter)				at school
DARCY, Frank	May 1882	S (boarder)				Day laborer

WEEKS STREET

139 OUBRE, Marie	June 1866					Saleslady
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<u>WEEKS</u>	<u>STREET</u> (cont.)	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
140	BERNARD, Washington	Feb. 1860	18				Barber
	Lena	July 1864	18				
	Walter	Dec. 1883	S				Grocery clerk
	Cleveland	Aug. 1885	S				at school
	Lilian	Sept 1894	S				
	Robert	Oct. 1898	S				
	GUILLLOT, Jerome	Jan. 1884	(boarder)				at school
141	LASSALLE, William	Jan. 1873	6				Farmer
	Odile	May 1867	6				
	Edward	Oct. 1894	S				
142	SEALY, Richard	Feb. 1855	Wid.				Ins. Agent
	Julia	July 1874	(daugh)				schoolteacher
	Hesler ?	Apr. 1876					Ins. Agent
	Havert	June 1878					Laundryman
	Richard	Mar. 1880					Laundryman
	Lettye	Jan. 1882					at school
	Ida	Feb. 1885					at school
	Roscoe	Sept 1887					at school
	Joe	Jan. 1892					at school
	BALLARD, Jim	Nov. 1880	(nephew)				Laundryman
143	DeBLANC, George	May 1861					Grocer
	Sidney ?	? 1872	(nephaw)				Day laborer
	Maria	Feb. 1857	Wid. (sister-in-law)				
				France			
	Louise	July 1874	S (niece)				
	Cyrus	July 1878	S (nephaw)				Grocery salesman
	LANDRY, Anthony	May 1878	S (boarder)				Grocer
	CAMELLE, Albart	Apr. 1881	S (boarder)		France	France	Grocery salesman
144	HUDGENS, Lucian	Oct. 1846	26		Va.		Carpenter
	Joseph ?	Dec. 1853	26				
	BROWN, Charles	Dec. 1870	7 (son-in-law)	Missouri			Fruit dealer
	Henrietta	June 1874	7				
	Earl	July 1893	S				at school
	HUDGENS, Maria	Nov. 1876	S				Seamstress
	John	Jan. 1890	S				at school
145	DELAHDUSSAYE, ?	Jan. 1868	2				Grocer
	Olympe	Nov. 1874	2				
	Marietta	Aug. 1899	S				
146	DAIGRE, Homer	May 1873	4				Dry goods salesman
	Mary	May 1878	4				
	Homer	June 1899					

<u>JULIA STREET</u> (cont.)	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
147 VEAZEY, Agenoria	Oct. 1851	S				Seamstress
GONZALES, Sidney	May 1872	S (nephew)				
148 BROUSSARD, Arane	Apr. 1844	Wid.				
Joseph	Aug. 1872	S				Hardware salesman
Agnes	Dec. 1878					
Cyrus ?	Apr. 1881					Day laborer
Armand	May 1882					Dry goods salesman
CONRAD, Leo	Mar. 1876	1 (son-in-law)				Farmer
Aimee	Oct. 1877	1				
149 COLLOTTA, Peter	May 1855	6	Italy (Nat., 1876)			Grocer
Mary	Jan. 1876	6	Italy (Nat., 1876)			
Josephine	Nov. 1895	S				
Francis	June 1898	S				
150 PERRET, Leon	Apr. 1832	35		France	Eng.	Landlord
Leontine	Nov. 1849	35				
ELRIDGE, Elise	July 1873	6 (boarder)				Servant
Mary	Nov. 1894	S (boarder)				
Elise	June 1898	S (boarder)				

WEEKS STREET (cont.)

151 DAIGRE, Aristele	Feb. 1864	13				Dry goods
Louisa	Jan. 1866	13		France		
Joseph	Mar. 1888	S				at school
Edna	Jan. 1890	S				at school
Allen	Dec. 1892	S				at school
LeBLANC, Wilda	Dec. 1882	S (niece)				
152 ANNAIN, Celine	July 1834	Wid.				
153 LASSALLE, Ernest	Apr. 1862	10				Restaurant
Annette	May 1875	10				
Paul	Apr. 1892	S				at school
Natalie	July 1894	S				at school
Anna	Aug. 1896	S				
154 RENOUDET, Laurent	Mar. 1848	30		France		Bank Cashier
Cecile	Apr. 1850	30				
Anthony	Dec. 1879	S				Ins. Agent
Mathilde	May 1881	S				
Joseph	May 1886	S				at school

WEEKS	STREET (cont.)	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
155	BROWNLEE, Laurel	Jan. 1868	4	Miss.	Ala.	Ala.	Stable keeper
	Mary	June 1878	4				
	Pearl	Sept 1897					
	LORD, Mary	Aug. 1837	Wid. (mother-in-law)	Ala.	Va.	S. C.	
156	BROWN, Robert	July 1850	24	Miss.	Ky.	Ky.	Stationary Eng.
	Sarah	May 1849	24	Ky.			
	William	May 1877					Blacksmith
	Josephine	Apr. 1879					Saleslady
	Martha	Jan. 1881					
	Mathilda	June 1883					at school
	Emma	Nov. 1885					at school
	Robert	June 1890					at school
	Sadie	Mar. 1893					at school
161	DRONET, Prosper	July 1845	18				Wheelwright
	Amelie	July 1843	18				Schoolteacher
	August	Nov. 1882					Foundry man
	Therese	Feb. 1884					at school
	Ferdinand	Feb. 1886					at school
162	BROUSSARD, Cecile	Apr. 1857	Wid.				
	Eva	Aug. 1877					
	Thomas	Jan. 1883					Day laborer
	Robert	Aug. 1884					Day laborer
	Winfind ?	Nov. 1887					at school
	FRENCH, Hinar ?	Oct. 1876	Wid. (son-in-law)				Day laborer
	Louane	Jan. 1898	S				
	Lee	Jan. 1876	S (boarder)				Day laborer
167	AUCCOIN, ?(female)	Nov. 1861	14	La.	La.	La.	?
	Mary	May 1880		La.	La.	La.	
	Clara	Nov. 1882		La.	La.	La.	at school
	Lillia	Mar. 1887		La.	La.	La.	at school
	Meads	Dec. 1893		La.	La.	La.	at school
168	BROUSSARD, Mortmer	May 1852	26				Policeman
	Camella	May 1855	26				
	Lizza	Jan. 1878					
	Milton	Mar. 1886					at school
	Lena	Dec. 1888					at school
	George	Oct. 1890					at school
	Frank	Aug. 1892					
	BRAO, Edward	Dec. 1869 (son-in-law)	Miss.	Ger.	Miss.	Miss.	Day laborer
	Lena	Dec. 1898 (grandaugh.)	Tex.				
169	ROGIER, Victor	Apr. 1820	66				Day laborer
	Judic	July 1818	66				
	VAUGHN, Albert	Apr. 1873 (grandson)					Carpenter

(To Be Continued)

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Felix Voorhies

THE MEN, THE YEARS: WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?

THE LIFE OF FELIX VOORHIES

*By Ruth T. Grant**

FELIX VOORHIES was born on the first day of the year 1830. His life, a span of more than eighty colorful and fulfilling years, began and ended in his beloved and tradition-filled Attakapas country. His roots lay deep in the soil of Europe; his progeny have blossomed across the face of America.

[This distinguished South Louisiana citizen traced his ancestry to Coerte-Albert Van-Voorhies, who, prior to the year 1600, resided in front of the village of Hees (as the name Voorhies indicates) near the town of Ruinen, in the province of Deuthe, Holland. A son of this same Coerte-Albert Van-Voorhies, Steven Coerte Van-Voorhies, emigrated from Holland in the early 1600s and settled in Flatland, Long Island, New York, where he held public office. His son, the first of the American generations to follow, was Coerte Steven Van-Voorhies, baptised January 23, 1678, at Flatland, Long Island, New York. He married Antie Remsen and became the father of Cornelius Van-Voorhies, who married Aeltie Couvenhoven and moved to New Jersey, settling five miles south of Princeton. Their son, Dan Van-Voorhies, (1) born March 9, 1749, in South Brunswick, New Jersey, served as an officer in the American Revolution. He and his wife, Eva Couvenhoven, were the parents of another Cornelius Voorhies, who traveled to and settled in South Louisiana. (2)

The first settler in the Attakapas country married Aimée Gradenigo, (3) descendant of a Venetian family who migrated to the Techeland and gained title to land on the east bank of that bayou a few miles below the present town of Leonville. (4) Their son, Cornelius, was born in 1803. (5) He married Cidalise Mouton, daughter of Jean Mouton, son of the

*Extracted from "The Life and Writings of Judge Félix Voorhies," a thesis by Ruth Tilly Grant, L.S.U., 1940. Mrs. Grant, the former Ruth Emily Tilly of New Iberia, received her B.A. degree from S.L.L. in 1933 and the Masters degree from L.S.U. in 1940. Mrs. Grant now resides in Mandeville.

1. This spelling of the family name is evidently the first change from the original Dutch spelling.
2. The prefix "Van" (of the) has now been dropped from the name.

3. Church records (Opelouses Church, Vol. 1, p. 22) show that Cornelius Voorhies's wife was baptised Agatha Amato (sometimes Agatha Armée) May 14, 1780, at the age of three 1/2 months. She was the daughter of Jean Gradenigo of Venice, Italy, and Marguerite Krapps (Krebs) of Pensacola. Cornelius and Aimée were married August 2, 1803. One entry lists his parents as Daniel Voorhies and Sera Gordon. Donald J. Hebert, Southwest Louisiana Records, 2nd ed. (Privately printed, 1976), Vol. 1.

4. Jean Gradenigo married Marguerite Krebs March 17, 1766, Mobile Church, Vol. VI, p. 49. The Opelouses general census of 1777 lists husband, wife, and five children (not Agathe Armée) living in the area. Jeacqueline Voorhies, *Some Late Eighteenth Century Louisianians* (Lafayette, La., 1973), p. 288. The fact that the only animals he owned were two horses indicates that he was engaged in cultivation. Jean Gradenigo died in 1809 at the age of 80. After 1807, his son, Augustin, claimed title, through occupancy and cultivation to a tract containing 274 acres of land on the east bank of Bayou Teche just across and above the land granted to John L. Zeringue. Louisiana Register of State Land Claims, Certificate B 204. For location, see Gertrude C. Teylor, *Land Grants Along the Teche, Part I* (Lafayette, La., 1979).

5. Opelouses church records show that Cornelius Voorhies was baptised October 1804, at the age of 3 months. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*, I, 569. He died in St. Martinville, July 2, 1859, age 55. *Ibid.*, V.

Lafayette Parish pioneer (6) and the granddaughter of Widow Borda, (7) who is said to have reared the real Evangeline. (8) The children of the Honorable Cornelius Voorhies and Cidalise Mouton were Edgar, Albert, Alfred, Martin, Marie Cornelius, Marie Amélie, Louis, Félix and Charles. (9)

Félix Voorhies, second to the youngest child in this family, received his early education at Saint Charles College, Grand Coteau, Louisiana, and at Springhill College, Mobile, Alabama. He completed his formal education at the College of the Immaculate Conception, now known as Jesuit's College in New Orleans, and shortly thereafter began studying law in the office of his brother, Judge Albert Voorhies. (10) In April 1860, he was admitted to the bar. The preceding year he had married Modeste Potier. (11) To this couple were born sixteen children. (12)

6. Jean-Baptiste Mouton was born April 24, 1784. He was the son of Jean Mouton, a native of Frission, Acadia. *Ibid.*, V, 420. Jean Mouton arrived in the Louisiana colony in 1785 and settled near Opelousas. He later received a land grant near the present St. Landry-Lafayette Parish line and became the founder of Vermilionville.

7. Marie Martha Borda, grandmother of Cornelius Voorhies, married Jean Mouton June 23, 1783. She was the daughter of Antoine Borda, a surgeon from France and of Marguerite Martin, a native of Acadia. She was the widow of Rainet Robicho when she married Borda. She died February 12, 1824, at more than 104 years of age. *Ibid.*, V, 828. The widow Borda, then was the great grandmother of Felix Voorhies.

In his book, *Acadian Reminiscences*, Voorhies wrote:

I was twelve years old, and yet I can picture in my mind the noble simplicity of my father's house.

and farther along he continued:

Our family consisted of my father and mother, of three children, and my grandmother, a centenarian, . . . our grandmother, an exile from Acadia, would relate to us the scenes she had witnessed when her people were driven from their homes by the British. . . . (Felix Voorhies, *Acadian Reminiscences* [Boston, 1907], pp. 15, 18.)

Voorhies, whose bent was more literary than historical, was obviously using the well-known vehicle of the "handed-down" story, since the father of this story had died 15 years before Voorhies was born. Even his grandmother could not have told him this story, for, neither had she been in Acadia nor was she living when Voorhies was born. (She died in 1831.)

8. Chapter 8 of the above cited begins:

Emmeline Labiche . . . was an orphan whose parents died when she was quite a child. I [his grandmother] had taken her into my home and raised her as my own daughter. (*Ibid.*, p. 81.)

9. Cornelius Voorhies married Cidalise Mouton in July 1828. Born September 18, 1808, she was the daughter of Jean-Baptiste Mouton and Marie Angélique Martin (married June 1, 1801). Cidalise was the widow of Charles Antoine. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*. Vols. I and II.

10. Like his father, Albert Voorhies, the second child of Cornelius Voorhies and Cidalise Mouton, became an associate justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

11. Modeste Potier, daughter of Charles Potier and Marie Marcelite Broussard, was born February 17, 1844. *Ibid.*, III. She was not quite 18 years old when she married Voorhies, October 17, 1859.

12. Two children died at birth and two others, Sidney and Angélla, died in infancy. The twelve others who lived long and fulfilling years were Edward, a lawyer, Lafayette, La., clerk of court for 16 years; Felix E. Voorhies, engineer, Dallas, Texas; Daniel, lawyer, St. Martinville; Charles, engineer, Lafayette; Robert, physician, Lafayette; Albert, dentist, New Iberia; Cécile (Mrs. L. E. Babin), Lafayette; Paul, machine shop owner, New Iberia; Walter, vice-president, City National Bank, New York City; Lucy (Mrs. August Gassie), Lafayette; Jean, bond broker, New Orleans, and Modeste (Mrs. Frank J. Deuteriva), New Iberia.

Félix Voorhies spent the greater part of his life in St. Martinville. His personal life involved, above all, the people and things he loved. (13) For this home-loving man, family life was simple, and he always looked forward to the peace and happiness he would find with his wife and children. (14)

The congeniality of this family made the residence a rendezvous for all in St. Martinville. Voorhies made his life even more complete with his literary and musical talents. He was a contributor to leading French newspapers in the United States, and his "Louisiana Sketches" in the *New York Independent* were widely read and admired. (15) For four years he edited *The Observer*, a St. Martinville newspaper. (16) His dramatic and musical talents he shared with his children and the other children of St. Martinville. Perhaps his greatest contribution to the life of the town was the theater he organized and directed. Like Shakespeare, he wrote the plays, trained the actors, and sometimes took part in them with his children and with other children in St. Martinville. (17) His musical interest itself was diapason, encompassing everything from his own dialectical compositions (18) to arias from French operas.

In 1940, at the time of the writing of this thesis, 9 of the 18 children were living. Modeste died May 1, 1972, at the age of 84. Paul Voorhies died July 11, 1977, at the age of 100 years and 8 months. At the time of the preparation of this article, Jean Sosthene, second to the youngest of the children of Félix and Modeste Voorhies is their only survivor. He lives with his daughter, Mrs. Eloïse Gery, in Breaux Bridge. June 15, he celebrated his 97th birthday.

Besides rearing 12 children to adulthood, Voorhies and his wife adopted and reared eight orphans.

13. Incidents in the personal and family life of Félix Voorhies were related to the writer by his children. One of his daughters told how her father returned home every afternoon at five to take his favorite place by the fireside where he could enjoy the company of his wife and children. While he told her of the things that had occurred during the day or pursued some bit of philosophy, she knitted or sewed, pretending to listen but really wondering how she would have enough to eat in the house the next day.

Later, when their daughter and the other children had gone to bed, she often heard her father pacing the floor late into the night. He was not, as she later learned, practicing some speech or dramatic feat; rather he was worrying where the next dollar would come from.

14. Although in his early manhood he was very poor, Voorhies taught his children all the rules of righteous living and the standards of conduct in this world. Yet, he did everything in his power to please his children. One of his sons related the following story:

At the time St. Martinville had a city ordinance forbidding swimming in Bayou Teche. However, on hot summer days Voorhies, with hook under arm, walked toward the bayou. The boys soon followed. Voorhies would sit under a tree reading his book, pretending not to notice the boys in swimming. Suddenly he would look up and say, "Tous à terre." The boys would obey him, and then Voorhies would close his book and go home.

15. *New Iberie Weekly Iberian*, August 31, 1895.

16. Interview with André Olivier, St. Martinville, La. The files of this paper were lost in a fire which destroyed the attic of the Voorhies home.

17. Voorhies' plays, written in pencil, were found in his record books, and ledgers, often with the original cost. These dramas, presented at the Duchamp Opere House, were under the auspices of the C. C. C. Club organized by Voorhies. It was later revealed that the initials stood for Chocolete, Coffee, and Cake. Ruth Grant, Interview with Dr. Robert Voorhies.

18. One of Voorhies' musical compositions, "Gringelet à la noce de Zozéphine," was in the possession of Bennett Voorhies, Lafayette, La. Edward Voorhies, the writer's son, sang at a fair in Broussard, La. Family members laughed as they recalled the event.

The sanctity of family life and the love of children and people who surrounded him was probably the motivating factor in his publicly voicing concern over the increase in misdemeanors and crimes threatening to destroy the peace and tranquility of his native region in the late 1850s and of the ineffectiveness of law enforcement and the courts in coping with these occurrences. (19) Because of the concern born out of his own rules for righteous living and standards of conduct, Voorhies joined other citizens in the area in organizing groups to see that crime was stamped out and justice was done. (20) This restlessness and disorder were a cause of even greater anxiety for Voorhies as the outbreak of the Civil War approached. He was reluctant to leave his wife, with child, at home virtually unprotected in a region where conditions were to grow worse in a time of war. However, duty and patriotism compelling him to leave, Voorhies joined the Confederate Army in the early days of the conflict. (21) Incidents told to him and events that influenced his thinking during the war years were the background for several essays and short stories that Voorhies wrote. (22)

The war ended, Voorhies was hardly at ease. As it was with all other strong-blooded men of the Attakapas, the political situation during Reconstruction was another basis for his fears. Along with those who opposed the corruption and fraud in state government, he took

19. To counteract the ineffectiveness of law enforcement, concerned men formed what was known as Vigilance Committees. Voorhies defended the illegal activities of these groups with the following words:

The steps taken by the Vigilants were bold ones and savored of revolution, but they must not be taken too harshly or with too much levity. A revolution, whether on a small or large scale, always has a first cause leading to its inauguration, and a first cause has certainly been set forth. . . .

Félix Voorhies, "Attakapas Parishes in 1859," *Weekly Iberion*, January 14, 21, 1937. Reprinted from the *New Iberie Sugar Bowl*, 1871. Alexandre Berde gives what is generally considered an accurate picture of the conditions of the time. Alexandre Berde, *Comités de Vigilance* (Saint Jean-Baptiste [Louisiane], 1861). Alcée Fortier, summarizing the information given by Berde, names some of the families most active in the work of Vigilance Committees:

The vigilantes were men of courage, of wealth, and of culture; and among them were Alexander Mouton, ex-governor and United States senator; his son Alfred Mouton, the brave general killed only a few years later at Mansfield; Major St. Julien, a real chevalier; Alcibiade Deblanc, afterward a judge of our supreme court; Alcée Judice, the most eloquent and intrepid; the Martins; the Voorhieses; the Broussards; and many others of the best and most respected families.

Alcée Fortier, *Louisiana Studies* (New Orleans, 1894), p. 29.

20. The Vigilante Committees fought a battle with their opponents on September 3, 1859, at Bayou Queue Tortue near Lafayette, and the power of the bandits was destroyed. Félix Voorhies, a member of the Vigilance Committee of St. Martinville, took part in this battle. Ruth Grant, interview with Dan Voorhies, Félix Voorhies' son.

21. Voorhies' official Confederate record is as follows:

Private Co C Eighth Louisiana Infantry. Enlisted June 19, 1861; Camp Moors, La. Roll July and August 1861. Absent, sick at Culpepper since August 31, 1861. Roll September and October 1861. Present. Report November 1861, Camp Florida. Discharged on Surgeon's certificate. Roll November and December, 1861. Discharged Camp Reserve November 3, 1861.—statement and final discharge given. Born in Louisiana; Occupation, Lawyer; Residence, St. Martinville, La. Age when enlisted, 20; Married.

22. One of these was the essay "Abraham Lincoln," in which Voorhies criticized this man of so much intelligence for freeing the slaves while able-bodied men were away from home. From the papers in possession of Mrs. F. J. Dauterive.

part in a secret movement to bring about the restoration of democratic principles. (23) In the politics of the next few years, Voorhies was active both locally and statewide, speaking out particularly as a firm believer of democratic ideals while he served in the Louisiana House of Representatives for one term, 1874-1878. (24) He was also concerned with the national election of 1876, the results of which were his writing two more essays, one on the direct election results and another expressing his attitude toward the Grant Republican party. (25)

In 1892, Félix Voorhies was elected to the judgeship of the Nineteenth Judicial District, (26) an office in which he served with tirelessness, and according to the general opinion of the time, with skill and understanding. (27) In carrying out his duties he emphasized the importance of jury duty and advised stringent enforcement of the law. When he bid for reelection in 1896, people were evidently satisfied with his performance as a jurist, (28) and, although unopposed, he still received all 1,199 votes cast.

Upon the death of his wife, May 15, 1901, Voorhies lost interest in politics, and he returned to law practice in New Iberia where he took up residence. (30) In 1908 he returned to St. Martinville where he practiced in a firm in which his son, Daniel, was a partner. At the age of seventy-three, he retired from active practice. He spent the last years of his life visiting his children and grandchildren, and during his spare time he added many writings to his already large collection of works. (31)

A long and full life closed for Félix Voorhies at 6:15 p.m., Thursday, August 19, 1919. Services were held from St. Peter's Catholic Church the following day, and his body was laid to rest among his family and friends in St. Martinville, the town where he was born.

23. This organization was known as the "White League." Its purpose was to overthrow the Republican party and destroy Negro domination. It is said to have been organized in St. Mary Parish, May 23, 1867, under the leadership of Alcibiade Deblenc. Henry Chambers, *A History of Louisiana* (Atlanta, Ga., 1909), p. 642. Félix Voorhies must have been a member of this group, since in one of his addresses he called his fellows "frères ligueurs." From family papers, Mrs. F. J. Deuterive.

24. Voorhies delivered a campaign speech October 24, 1874. Family papers, Mrs. F. J. Deuterive. Voorhies was a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives at that time. W. H. Perrin, ed., *Southwest Louisiana* (New Orleans, 1891), p. 350.

25. Voorhies' attitude toward the Grant Republican party never did change. He expressed his opinion in an essay entitled "Petit Discours de Circonstance e Louange de U. S. Grant." Family papers, Mrs. F. J. Deuterive.

26. This district has since been revised and is now incorporated in the Sixteenth Judicial District of Louisiana.

27. "Judge Voorhies' Charge to the Grand Jury," *Weekly Iberian*, September 7, 1895.

28. *Volley of the Teche*. Files of this newspaper are not extant. This article was reprinted in the *Weekly Iberian*, April 25, 1896.

29. *Ibid.*, April 29, 1896.

30. For the next seven years Voorhies was a law partner of John E. Schwing, who later became executive officer of New Iberia National Bank. Ruth Grant, interview with John E. Schwing.

31. Félix Voorhies' reflections and thoughts through the years in his original, careful handwriting have been kept by members of his family.



Some of the Voorhies family and friends gather in front of the old home in St. Martinville. From left to right, seated, Jean S. Voorhies and neighbor. Standing, a neighbor, Walter F. Voorhies, Felix Voorhies, Lucie Voorhies, two neighbors, Modeste Voorhies, Mrs. Felix Voorhies, Charles L. Voorhies, and Judge Albert Voorhies.



Voorhies Family Reunion 1898 or 1899

First row: Fred Voorhies, Henry Voorhies, Don Voorhies, P. J. Voorhies, Modeste Voorhies (Dauterive), Rousseau Voorhies, and Anna Voorhies (Metcalf).

Second row: Cecile Voorhies Babin, Lucie Voorhies Gassie, Baby Corinne Voorhies (Sints), Mrs. Felix Voorhies and Baby Herman, Mrs. Felix Voorhies (wife of Judge Felix Voorhies), Mrs. Edward Voorhies, Mrs. Albert P. Voorhies, Mrs. Charles Voorhies and daughter Carmen (Brown), and Mrs. Dan Voorhies.

Third row: Lucien Ducrest, Dr. Robert Voorhies, Jean S. Voorhies, Felix Voorhies, and Edward J. Voorhies and son Howard.

Fourth row: Walter F. Voorhies, Edward Voorhies, Jr., and Dan Voorhies.

OBITUARY OF MME CORNELIUS VOORHIES,
née CICALISE MOUTON

By Placide Canonge

Translated by Mother Allain

Last Wednesday, October 6, around seven in the evening, sad news spread through St. Martinville, news which shrouded the entire population in mourning: Madame Cornelius Voorhies had died. Standing before her grave, we remember a past filled with lovely, distant memories.

In those days, the town of St. Martinville had a style unlike any other in Louisiana. There the good old creole ways were preserved intact. There, hospitality was practised with a generosity matched only by its elegance. A hundred hands stretched out to the visitor; doors and hearts opened to him with boundless graciousness.

There were no large fortunes, yet one was received like a king. Everywhere one saw fruitful labors, abundance, peace. It was a true picture of happiness.

Everyone was proud, of course, of being American, but that pride was compounded by that of being a Louisianian. The people preserved religiously their respect, their love for the language and the culture of old Louisiana. *Noli me tangere* (Do not touch me).

The population of this delightful corner of the Attakapas district was indeed an elite which provided the state with more than its share of men so respected for their character as they were distinguished by their talents.

Outstanding among the families who led there so patriarchal a life was the Voorhies family, great in number but great also in the consideration it rightfully enjoyed. Nothing seemed missing from its joys. Memory brings back the sight of this home so happy and so appealing.

What changes for them, as for many others! Time did not only tear down an honorably built fortune, but multiplied the deaths, striking here and there, even some still filled with enthusiasm and youth, who were as useful to their community as they were to their families.

The one who has just left us witnessed all these disasters. How many collapses, how many tombs did she have to watch! But she was of that land where creole character endures. As a mother she wept, no doubt, but she did not stagger before ruin and death. She remained strong because, if some were gone, others remained to whom she owed an example of energy and resignation that they ought learn to make their way in life, however painful the road. The lessons given by such a mother are never forgotten.

Madame Cornelius Voorhies was the widow of the Honorable Cornelius Voorhies, justice of the Supreme Court. It was on July 17, 1839, that this excellent, distinguished, honest man was taken from her. She had had at least the consolation of seeing him governor of the state and of giving him as a successor his son, the Honorable Albert Voorhies, who showed himself worthy of the succession. Louisiana seems to delight in honoring this family: Madame Voorhies' brother was Alexandre Mouton, who, elected governor after having served in Congress, administered his native state with an honesty, an independence, and energy we take pleasure in remembering.

Madame Cornelius Voorhies died at the age of 73, at the home of her son, Mr. Félix Voorhies, and, we repeat, the entire community of St. Martinville shed tears on the coffin which carried away so much devotion, so many virtues.

We salute this coffin with deepest respect and send our sincerest sympathy to the fine old family among whom we number so many dear friends.

New Orleans L'Abeille, October 1886.

*[Editor's note: Cornelius Voorhies never served as governor of Louisiana.]

INQUEST CONCERNING GEORGE STELLY WHO WAS FOUND HANGING FROM A TREE*

Translated by Michael J. Foret

At Opelousas, the twenty-fourth day of August of the year seventeen hundred ninety-seven, we, Don Martin Duralde, Captain of the militia and civil and military commandant of this post, on the verbal statement of Sieur Stelly and the written deposition of Sieur Robert Burleigh, syndic, that the above named George Stelly was found hanging from a tree and was interred without the required preliminary inspection by the officers of justice, we went to Grand Coteau, where the incident took place. In our presence and that of the witnesses, Sieur Charles Smith and André Meeche, and after taking a solemn oath before God, our Lord, to tell the truth, and the Sign of the Cross, we interrogated as follows:

First witness, Sieur Jacob Miller.

Question: Are you the grandfather of George Stelly?

Sieur Miller: I am.

Question: Did your grandson live at your house?

Sieur Miller: Yes, he lived with me for the past three months.

Question: Is it true that he was found hanged?

Sieur Miller: Yes, he was found hanging from a small tree.

Question: Did he have parents?

Sieur Miller: His father is dead, but his mother, still living, has remarried Sieur Joseph Frozard.

Question: Why did your grandson live with you and not with his parents?

Sieur Miller: He lived with me because he could not get along with his stepfather.

Question: Do you know the subject of their discord?

Sieur Miller: Someone told me that the discord came about because the boy wasn't dutiful, but, as for me, I have never found the child so; on the contrary, I found him submissive and respectful at all times.

Question: Do you know how this accident could have come about?

Sieur Miller: I do not know what reason could be behind this unfortunate occurrence.

Question: Did the boy have any enemy, secret or public?

Sieur Miller: I know of no such enemy.

Question: Did he have any differences with anybody prior to his death?

Sieur Miller: I am ignorant of any such differences.

Question: Who found the boy hanging?

Sieur Miller: The first to find the boy in this state was Jean Tyson.

Question: Why did no one call the authorities. Did not anyone know that in such cases one should not inter before this formality?

Sieur Miller: I do not know of any formalities involved in such cases. If I have committed any error, it was not because of any intent of mine or of anyone else's. I cried and cried as if I were the boy's father. Since he had

*This document, written in Franch, was obtained from the Louisiana State Museum, New Orleans, and submitted by Mrs. Roy H. Harper of Slidell, La.

been missing since the night before, and his body was already stiff, everyone agreed the best thing to do was to bury him but not before the body was viewed by the syndic of the neighborhood, Sieur Burleigh, and several others.

Question: Did you notice any contusions or marks of struggle?

Sieur Miller: I did not inspect the body because I was too overtaken by sorrow. I heard others who had inspected the body, but no one said he saw any bruise or sign to induce such suspicion.

Question: Do you suspect that anyone else hanged the boy?

Sieur Miller: I accuse nobody.

Question: How is it possible that a boy of his age could have hanged himself?

Sieur Miller: I know nothing except that the boy was found hanging from a small tree with his shirt tied by its tails around his neck.

Question: How is it possible that he had no contusions when a rumor has it that there was one at his waist and another on his eye?

Sieur Miller: I have not heard of there being anything else. All I know is that the boy was hanging by a small rope, his feet touching the ground, his knife near him.

Question: How old was George Stelly?

Sieur Miller: He was fifteen years old.

Question: Is it true that relatives of the young man had a family meeting to discuss what could happen to him and for what reason?

Sieur Miller: As a matter of fact, relatives had met to determine to whose home he should go since Sieur Frozard had said he would not serve as the boy's guardian. He had alleged that, far from being helpful, the boy mistreated and spoiled his brothers. After that, the boy expressed a desire to come to live with me.

I swear by the oath I have taken that everything I have said is the pure truth. I am about fifty-nine years old, Roman Catholic and Apostolic, and a native of Germany. I have read my foregoing statements, and I declare that I have nothing to add or to withdraw from them.

(Signed) Jacob Miller

Witnesses:

Charles Smith

Andre Meche

Martin Duralde, Commandant

The same day, month, and year as the above and before us, commandant and witnesses appeared Sr. Jean Tyson, who, after the solemn oath he took by the Sign of the Cross and God, our Lord, to tell the truth, was questioned as follows:

Question: Is it true that you found young George Stelly hanging from a tree?

Sieur Tyson: It is true.

Question: How did this come about?

Sieur Tyson: The boy had disappeared since the night before. His grandfather, Jacob Miller, sent his son to ask me to join in the search for the boy. I found him hanging from the main branch of the tree, his feet touching the ground, his knees bent, his shirt off and tied around his neck by its tails and caught between his chest and the rope which served to strangle him.

Question: What did you do after finding the boy?

Sieur Tyson: I did not touch him but immediately called those searching with me.

Question: Why didn't you go to the authorities or advise notifying the authorities to inspect the body?

Sieur Tyson: None of us had ever been placed in such a position before. We had no knowledge of the obligation to notify the authorities, but we did call in all other neighbors and Sieur Robert Burleigh, the neighborhood syndic. As for the boy, we buried him at the place he was found.

Question: Did you or any others present notice any contusions on the body?

Sieur Tyson: The only sign I observed was a red eye. Also, it looked as if the blood had been cut off from his feet or legs and from his hands and his arms.

Question: Do you think the boy hanged himself, or do you think it was done by someone else?

Sieur Tyson: I think the boy hanged himself.

Question: Do you know of any enemy the boy had or of any difficulty he had with anyone.

Sieur Tyson: I do not know of any enemy the boy had nor of any difficulty other than that he could not get along with his stepfather, Joseph Frozard. Because of the difficulty the boy had lived with his grandfather, Jacob Miller, for the past three months.

Question: Why could the boy not get along with his stepfather?

Sieur Tyson: The boy could not get along with his stepfather because he had a difficult character, given over sometime to fits. He mistreated his brothers and sometimes wrongly advised them to contradict his stepfather.

Question: Is it true that there had been a family meeting to discuss this discord and to decide on the boy's destination?

Sieur Tyson: Yes. The relatives, who were numerous, met at the request of Sieur Frozard to discuss the subject of his malcontent, of which he [the boy] had contributed his part. If the relatives found it acceptable, the boy would go to stay with his grandfather.

Question: Do you know if the boy's stepfather or anyone else had threatened him?

Sieur Tyson: I do not know whether the boy had been threatened by his stepfather or by anyone else.

Question: How old was George Stelly.

Sieur Tyson: He was about fifteen years old.

Question: How do you think it possible a boy of this age could be driven to such an extremity.

Sieur Tyson: I find it surprising myself, but I know nothing more that could be of any help.

Question: How can you say that you did not know of any obligation to notify authorities when, in truth, you had been warned of such obligation.

Sieur Tyson: It is true that Sieur Andre Meche warned that before touching the corpse authorities should be notified, but other persons said otherwise, since many years before an accident of another nature had taken place and no inquest had been made. Furthermore, the body had begun to smell bad. We thought the best thing to do was to bury him without any formality.

Question: Can you say that the body did not bear any bruises when rumors say that there was one around the waist.

Sieur Tyson: I know absolutely nothing about any marks other than those of which I have spoken.

Question: Who were the other witnesses to this affair.

Sieur Tyson: Others present that I remember were Andre Meche, Jean Savoie, Robert Burleigh, Periche Richard, Jean Tailor (Taylor), and Paul Boutin, *fils*. I am about forty-five years old, Roman Catholic and Apostolic, and a native of Germany. Everything I have said is the pure truth, according to the solemn oath I have spoken, and I have nothing to add or withdrawn from my statements.

(Signed) John Tyson

Witnesses:

Charles Smith

Andre Meche

Martin Duralde, Commandant

At Opelousas, the twenty-fourth day of October of the same year and for the same reasons as stated above appeared before us, the commandant and witnesses Sieur Jean Gradenigo and Sieur Augustin Gradenigo, Sr.—Sieur Jean Savoie, who after the solemn oath he took in the form required and conforming to the law to tell the truth to the question put forth to him, responded as follows:

Question: Did you see the body of the deceased George Stelly.

Sieur Savoie: Yes, I saw the body hanging from the branch of a small tree. His shirt was removed from his body and tied around his neck by its tails, the sleeves hanging, the body and the shirt hanging from the tree by a cord in such a way that one end was tied to the branch by a simple knot, the other end tied in such a way that his head and neck carried all the weight of the body where the shirt was tied around the neck. His feet were touching the ground, his hips and knees were a little askew, his arms were hanging, and a large, open *couteau anglais* was on the ground at his side.

Question: Do you know why or for what reason this affair came about?

Sieur Savoie: I do not know why this affair came about. I do not know of any quarrel, fight, or any other matter which could have brought about this unhappiness.

Question: What kind of character did the young man have?

Sieur Savoie: I did not know of anything particularly, but I heard there had been a quarrel or something. I do not know of any enemy this boy had in the entire world.

Question: Did you see any evidence of blows having been struck.

Sieur Savoie: I could not distinguish any mark or blow that brought any attention to itself.

Question: Do you know of any enemies the boy may have had—either secret or public, among his relatives or among strangers.

Sieur Savoie: I do not know any enemy this boy had in the entire world.

Question: Did you see the interment?

Sieur Savoie: I was present when the body was cut down and interred.

Question: Did you not know that in these cases one should not touch the body without first calling the authorities.

Sieur Savoie: Some gave the opinion that the body should not be touched before notifying the authorities. Others stated that the body would spoil before the authorities could be alerted. No agreement was reached, but the other's opinion prevailed, with no intent to contravene the law which exists in regard to such cases.

Question: How do you think it possible that a young man of this age could be driven to this point of killing himself?

Sieur Savoie: It is unheard of that a child of this age should kill himself, but he was found hanging.

Question: Can you say there was no sign of a blow when several people had observed a red eye and a bruise on his waist.

Sieur Savoie: I do not know anyone who saw the body better than I did; yet, I did not see any mark which would induce suspicion that he was killed by anyone but himself. It is true that there was some blood in his eye and left ear, but I believed that to be the result of the hanging that strangled him. Everything I have said is the pure truth, attested and affirmed by the solemn oath. I have nothing to add or retract. I am about fifty years old, Roman Catholic and Apostolic, and a native of Acadia.

Witnesses:

(Signed) Mark of Sieur Jean Savoie

Jean Gradenigo

Augustin Gradenigo

Martin Duralde, Commandant

Sent to Monsieur Don Manuel Gayoso y de Lemos, governor-general of the province by copies conforming to the original document deposited with the clerk of the commandant at Opelousas the eighteenth of October, seventeen ninety-seven.

(Signed) Martin Duralde

THE FAMILY OF GEORGE STELLY

George Stelly, the pathetic youth whose violent death, whether by his own hands or by the hands of another, was the son of Jean George Stelly and Marie Barbara Miller. (1) George's father, the son of Jean George Stelly (Echetaire, Eschstelly, originally Steiger) and Christine Edelmeyer, (2) was born and reared in St. John the Baptist Parish. The elder Stelly sold his farm in St. John on Dec. 12, 1772, and moved with his younger children to the Prairie Grand Coteau in the Opelousas area sometime later. (3) Here his son, Jean George, met and married Marie Barbara Miller. (4) She was the daughter of Jacob Miller and Marie Ann Tegen (Theison, Thequint, Theiper, Degin), natives of Germany. (5) Besides George, their oldest child, Jean George and Marie Barbara had six children, the youngest only an infant when her father died July 23, 1794. (6) A little more than a year later, Marie Barbara married Joseph Frozard of Reine, France. (7) Their first child, Jean Baptist, was born in September 1796. George Stelly, the subject of this inquiry, then, had four brothers, two sisters, and one half brother (8) when he apparently disagreed with his step-father and decided to live with his grandfather.

In the years that followed, the Stelly family in the Opelousas area grew and branched out in all directions while the Frozard name seems to have all but died out. (9)

1. Records of the Opelousas church [Vol. I, p. 40] indicate that George Stelly was baptised Aug. 15, 1782, at the age of three weeks.

2. Jean George Eschstelly and Christine Edelmeyer were married July 9, 1743. He was the son of Jean Eschstelly of Holbershausen, Germany, and Marguerite Greinerin. Glenn R. Conrad, *Saint-Jean-Baptiste des Allemands* (Lafayette, La., 1972), p. 312.

An entry in the Opelousas church records shows a George Stelly died in 1792. Since another entry shows another George Stelly, the son of Jean-George and Christine, dying in 1794, the first could have been the father. Donald J. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records* (Privately printed, 1976), Vol. I.

3. Conrad, *Saint-Jean-Baptiste*, p. 21.
He received a land grant along Bayou Boibeux, October 7, 1774. Francois Stelly, Jean George's oldest son, sold his property on the Mississippi River, August 18, 1777. Since this is his last entry in the St. John records, he probably joined his father, receiving a land grant on Bayou Boibeux a year later. A sister, Catherine, married Michael Cormier, an Acadian who received a land grant in the same area in 1771. For location of the Stelly and Cormier grants, see Gertrude C. Teylor, *Land Grants Along the Teche*, Part I (Lafayette, La., 1980).

4. Jean George Stelly married Marie Barbara Miller, October 2, 1781. She was born in Frederick County, Maryland. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*, Vol. I. Her family could have been one of the group of German families who came to Louisiana from Maryland in 1774.

5. Jacob Miller was the son of Nicholas and Rosalie Miller of Germany. He settled on the Prairie des Femmes, in the area where Bayou Boibeux joins Bayou Fusilier. Miller died December 20, 1807, at the age of seventy. *Ibid.*

6. The children born after George were Jean Michel, 1774; Jean Pierre, 1785; Jean Jacques; Marie Louise, 1789; Alexis, 1793; and Marie Ann, 1794. *Ibid.*

7. Joseph Frozard and Marie Barbara Stelly married October 6, 1795. *Ibid.* His property was located south of the land grant to Michael Cormier.

8. Hebert's *Southwest Louisiana Records* lists four children born to Joseph Frozard and his wife: Jean Baptiste, 1796; Virgil, 1798; Marie Berbe, 1800; and Marie Rose, 1803. There is no entry for Frozard's death. His wife died in 1824 at the age of 64. *Ibid.*

9. This conclusion is drawn from investigation into Southwest Louisiana Records, from telephone directories, and from inquiries to persons living in the area.

THE JOURNAL OF JOHN LANDRETH

Transcribed and annotated by Dennis Gibson

(Continued from Vol. XV, No. 2)

February the Eighteenth Eighteen bundred and nineteen. Slept well last night and got up early this morning. Very cold for this country. Mercury 48° at Sun Rise very cloudy and likely for rain. Left New iberia about nine oclock am charges very high but the entertainment very good for this country. From New Iberia we stear up the Tecbe North West three quarters of a mile to a plantation on our left thence North by West a quarter of a mile the land on the left high and in cultivation. On the right very low and in woods thence North East one eighth of a mile woods on both sides of the river the lands on both sides now tolerably high. East two miles at the End of a mile and three quarters on this course a plantation on our right the lands on both sides high and good thence East North East one mile end a half a large open prairie on our right extending nearly to this Grand alias Chitimaches Lake. Thence East two miles end a quarter Land cleared and settled on our right fine high rich land on both sides of the river thence East North East a quarter of a mile. A good looking plantation on our right and a large good looking bouse, a strange sight in this country. [1] Thence North one mile, fine high rich waving land settled and cleared on our right end woods on our left very fine land thence North North West one mile and a half through fine high waving rich land on both sides. Here the Land begins to be beautiful fine high rich and waving and the woods completely spangied with blossoms of the flowering trees and shrubs composed of then thousand brilliant varieties of shade. Here is the beautiful dogwood [2] in full bloom the wild cherry and delightful bawthorn so much celebrated in Scottisb song whose last years red fruit clings to its stem and shines in full lustre through the beautiful party coloured blossoms of the present year gives delight to the eye and pleasing sensations to the mind.

1. Plantations and plantation houses described by Landreth from this point on were those on the small land grants of the Acadians who had occupied these lands after leaving Bernard Dauterive's property in 1785 and had passed them on to their descendants by 1819, or those few large landholders who had bought properties of the original grantees. Among these were Francois Gonsoulin, a native of France who acquired land from the widow of St. Marc Darby, the heirs of Michael Doucette, Bonaventure Martin, and Benoist St. Clair; Petit Joseph, son of Joseph Broussard dit Becusoleil who died on Dauterive's concession, and Claude Broussard and his son Amant. In 1818 Louis Granger had acquired the grant of Joseph Landry (where Loreauville is not located). Farther up the bayou were the Dugat (Dugas) and Trahan families, and nearer St. Martinville, Louis and Alexander DelaHoussaye, sons of Lepelletier DelaHoussaye, had come into possession of all land granted to Francois Grevemberg and his wife, Ann Judith Cheneal. For locations, see Gertrude C. Teylor, *Land Grants Along the Teche*, Part II (Lafayette, La., 1980).

Only two houses built by the earliest settlers of this area are known to be standing today. Construction details of both houses indicate they were built in the late 1700s. In late 1975, one of these houses was moved from the east bank of Bayou Teche just south of St. Martinville (a land grant to Ann Judith Chenalin 1781) to the west bank on the old Segure place on Highway 31, just inside the St. Martin Parish line. The house was placed on a raised brick basement, and having been renovated is now the property and residence of the Teb Porter family. The other house, purchased from the heirs of Amant Broussard, stood just south of Loreauville on the land grant of Joseph Broussard. The house was bought in 1979 by Roy Boucvalt and moved to his property on East Main St. in New iberie, where it has been repaired and renovated.

The settlement six miles below St. Martinville, mentioned later on, was on the upper bayou on the property of Francoise Pellerin, widow of St. Marc Darby. The property was originally the land grant of Augustin Grevemberg. It extended from beyou to beyou, and, where the distance was shortest, it was the point where cergoes and trevelers made portage rather than traverse the long and curving course of Bayou Teche.

2. Landreth was probably mistaken in identifying the dogwood, since that tree was not native to the lower Teche.

Here also the wild current, unwilling to be hid amidst so great a display of beauty, steps forth robed in white emblem of purity which I hope and trust will ever delight this virtuous observer and here also in beautiful groves interspersed throughout these woods are found the beautiful laurel Magnolias whose elegant large leaves of never fading green adds a brilliant variety to the whole of the surrounding scenery. Here also is found the common Magnolia in a stately tree rising with the loftiest Trees of the wood and he who has been delighted to view the sweet Magnolia in an humble shrub gazes upon it here with admiration and astonishment. Here also we find interspersed and arranged amongst the other beauties of the Forest the sweet scented Hickory whose bursting bud, at this moment perfumes the whole surrounding woods. Here every where not far distance from each other in Majestic form stands the acknowledged President of the Forest the sturdy Oak as it were giving command order and arrangement to the great whole—and here in the more humble rhodes are to be found by the sides of the waters the cypress attended by the willow dropping their dewey tears into the waters of the Tache lamenting that so much sweetness should be wasted in air and the waters of the Tache mixing complaint with tears and lamentations and gently moving them on to our northern shores complaining that her sister streams should be the harbour and rhode and almost exclusively navigated by execrable smugglers and pirates when their shores afford such an ample supply of articles for building of vessels calculated to navigate these shoal waters and drive these vile execrable villains from their shores also sink them in watery graves and I hope and trust the time is fast approaching and not far distant when many of the Oaks which I have surveyed and often viewed with delight will be moulded into vessels of various descriptions calculated to drive and keep from our coast and shores vessels of every nation and country coming to annoy and that more will dare to approach within without respect and that they will be made to carry over every expanse of ocean the Star Spangled Banners of America proudly waving over the hands of their victorious commanders. Still in the Tache we Stear up North by East two miles to a plantation on our right thence North west one mile plenty of — — — — — two feet high thence West by South e quarter of a mile fine high rich beautiful waving land on both sides of the river thence Southwest half e mile beautiful rich land on both sides all in woods thence South by East two miles still beautiful rich Lends all in woods thence South by West half a mile a good looking settlement on our left thence South West three quarters of e mile here the hanks on the left hand are twenty feet high the lends on both sides delightfully and all in woods thence West half a mile to e large plantation on our left and a very good looking one on our right thence North West by West two miles and a half still fine high land a settlement on our left thence North West by North one mile to a settlement on each side of the River thence North North West one mile delightful fine high land on both sides of the river all in woods thence North five miles to St. Martinsville where we arrived some time after dark some thunder and lightning the Tache from Ibaria to St. Martinville abounds with teropins. Went to what is said to be the best tavern, kept by a Mr. William Graig (3) a Scotsman by birth and a good appetite for supper.

Friday February the nineteenth now at St. Martinsville formerly called the Atekepes Church at Sun Rise this morning mercury 62o Soon comes on to rain and rains very hard till after noon. I cannot go out and so I write all day. St. Martinsville seems to be a tolerable thriving little place there is a Roman Catholic Church here and e Priest. There are two taverns, a good many

3. William Graig was the son of Stanislaus and Elizabeth McGregor of Glasgow, Scotland. Three brothers came to the Attakapas—James, William, and George—the latter being the only one listed in the Census of 1810. William Graig married Jena Yates who died April 23, 1828, at the age of 43. Donald J. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records* (Privately printed, 1976), Vol. II. No children are listed from this marriage. Graig's tavern was located between the Catholic church and Bayou Tache. He was also one of the organizers of the Attakapas Steam Co. For more on William Graig, see "The Journal of John Landrath," *Attakapas Gazette*, XIV (1979), 161.

stores, and say about thirty dwelling houses the situation where the town stands rather low and a rich redish loamy soil that the rain which fall this day it is almost impossible to walk about so I will give a statement of the prices current in the Opelouses country as I had them from Mr. William Johnson a deputy surveyor in this country.

OPELOUSAS PRICES CURRENT

Improved land from neighbor to neighbor	\$10 per arpent
Some from superior situation and improvement	\$20 Do.
Unimproved lands belonging to the Government	
at government price	\$ 2 Do.
A cow and a calf	\$20
A yoke of oxen well broke to work	\$35
A yoke of oxen not broke	\$25
Beef cattle from \$15 to	\$20
Sheep per head	\$ 3.50
Hogs no fixed price might be very easily raised	
but very much neglected	
Small Spanish work horses very good from \$25 to	\$50
Good saddle horses of the Spanish breed from \$50 to	\$60
First rate American saddle horses	\$300
Corn not generally raised for sale of course high	\$0.75
Turkeys	\$0.75
Dung hill Fowl	\$0.25
Ducks	\$0.25
Geese few raised	none for sale
Average crops in Opelouses	
in corn per arpent generally	50 bushels
in cotton do. do.	1000 lb
Sugar made for home consumption only	
Indigo is raised here to great perfection and the land yield great returns in this crop	

The Opelouses lies on the Teche about sixty miles above Franklin. Mr. Johnson says it is a fine rich waving country, supplied with plenty of fine spring water and from every account is one of the finest countries in the world for the raising of black cattle. It is not uncommon for one man to have from three to five thousand head and one man I heard of had it is said ten thousand head from three hundred to a thousand head is quite common for one man to own. wheat has been tried and succeeded very well in this country but not common. Mr. Johnson says they have fine gardens generally and that Oranges and Peach trees thrive very well and that apple trees do tolerable well walnuts cherries and plumb succeed very well—

The same Mr. Johnson in speaking of the Opelouses country says it is one of the handsomest and finest countries in the world. Says that people enjoy good health and live to a great age. Says a simple bilious complaint is all the disease that adults are subject to and it is so understood that any old women can cure it and that children are subject only to complaints proceeding from worms: from what Mr. Johnson says and his opinion is corroborated by all men of information that I have met with who pretend to be acquainted with this country I think the Opelouses and the country between that and the high lands on the Red River commencing some distance above Alexandria is one of the finest and most desirable countries on Earth. Here almost every comfort and convenience of life and the luxuries also can be made and enjoyed with good health and a prospect of long life.

Friday February the 19th 1819 at St. Martinsville This day the man we hired at New Iberia to go to the Vermillion and try to hire a boat for us returned to St. Martinsville without being able to engage a boat. We found the expense of carrying our own boat across would be very great if practicable and if carried would not answer the purpose for navigating of shore waters not being able in her to carry more than water and provisions for four or five days and we would not expect to make our intended trip with effect in less

than ten or fifteen days and we could make no calculation for getting of either in a country entirely unsettled, inhabited only at times by robbers, smugglers, and pirates which make it unsafe to navigate these waters without a considerable armed force. It is truly lamentable that such a nest of unclean birds should be suffered to rest in or near our waters. We therefore unanimously concluded to return to New Orleans and try and get a vessel with a force sufficient to navigate these waters safely.

Saturday February 20th 1819 at St. Martinsville cold at Sunrise Mercury 61. The streets very muddy since the rain. Here they make very good bricks they are of a redish colour rather handsome and it is said when well burnt they are durable. They can be made here and sold at from ten to twelve dollars per thousand. This is a fine country for Bricklayers. A chimney which in Maryland would cost for building Eight or ten dollars will here cost from thirty to thirty-five, but brick chimneys are not as yet universal in use mud or clay chimneys are most common and mud walls.

Also, there are a great many of the weeping willow in and about St. Martinsville now in full bloom and a great deal of which clover and an abundance of the Buffalo clover which is at this time delightful pasture the soil here is very fine from St. Martinsville nearly in a westerly direction about seventeen miles to the Vermillion and from the Vermillion nearly in the same direction Thirty miles to the Marmantau and from the Marmantau nearly in the same direction thirty miles to the Calcasu. All these places particularly the Marmantau and Calcasu all are the harbours and Dens of the most abandoned wretches of the human race, smugglers and pirates who go about the coast of the Gulph in vessels of a small draught of water and rob and plunder without distinction every vessell of every nation they meet with and are able to conquer and put to death every soul they find on board without respect of persons age or sex and then their unlawful plunder they carry all though the country and sell at a very low rate and find plenty of purchasers. Here you will find exposed to sale every article of dress of both sexes even the dresses of infants who perhaps had never seen the light I think that it is high time that an end should be put to such vile and inhuman practices I hope and trust the government will in the short time cut it up by the root

Sunday February 21st 1819 cold morning Mercury in the thermometer at sunrise 46o prepsare for a start down the river again. There is a wooden Bridge across the Techa at St. Martinsville about 7 oclock A.M. I leave St. Martinsville and steer down the Techa with the wind at North . . . This country is by many accused of monotony but I think any person in sailing down the Techa from St. Martinsville to New Iberia who is pleased to view nature in her most placid and beautiful form would find a most delightful and pleasing variety in the gently waving lawns that bound the Techa and whenever we meet with the Land ip its natural state uncleared and uncultivated they than behold nature in her original state producing a great variety of lofty and elegant groes of different kinds interspersed with flowering Trees and Shrubs at this movemant in full bloom displaying ten thousand brilliant varieties of shade to the calm and much contemplated mind who wishes to view nature in her mildest forms such scenes yield great delight. . . . We arrived at New Iberia at four o'clock P.M. and put up for the night at Pintards.

Monday February 22d 1819 at half past three o'clock A.M. left New Iberia and steared down the Techa toward Franklin in a very cold morning with a considerable white frost at Sunrise the thermometer 39o this is the coldest morning I have seen in this country about eighteen miles below Iberia want on Shore saw a rabbit and a great many briars in blossom saw blue violets in full bloom and white clover in abundance. Saw and heard the sweet little turtle dove at noon the Thermometer 72o arrived at Franklin at half past five o'clock after rowing about forty-two miles the men very much fatigued at night thermometer 59o stop at Mr. Reed's Tavern

Tuesday February 23d 1819 now at Franklin Sunrise Thermometer 58o still cold and very cloudy at noon thermometer 74o wind South much warmer this day has proved much better than was expected in the morning at Sun Down thermometer 68o wrote all day and with a candle until nine o'clock P.M.

Wednesday February 24th 1819 at Franklin slept well last night and feel well this morning was highly pleased with the company of a Mr. Brownson (4) a young Lawyer who has been settled at St. Martinsville for about two years he is a native of the State of Vermont and is truly a well informed gentle young man and is doing well. After Breakfast in company with Mr. Brownson started for Doctr James Hennins (5) arrived at Doctr Hennins at about ten o'clock A.M. the Doctr was out about his farm but Mrs. Hennins was home. She is a most pleasing and sensible and agreeable woman. She is a native of Maryland from Prince Georges County her maiden name was Waters in a short time the Doctr came to the House and soon invited me to take a ride over his plantation which I did and found everything in excellent order the Doctr is a man of fine talents and education and one of the best looking men of his age I have seen. he is about fifty two years of age they have only one child living. Mr. Alfred Hennins a lawyer in New Orleans. Doctr Hennins raises a great many Hogs and makes his own bacon which is as good as I ever eat he keeps a fine flock of sheep also and a great number of

black cattle he makes plenty of butter for family use and some for market he also makes plenty of corn for home consumption and some to spare. his House is handsomely furnished and he lives like a prince and in point of hospitality Doctr Hennins and Lady are exceeded by few if any on this earth. Dr. Hennin says that he thinks the average crop of corn in the Atakapas country does not exceed thirty five and forty bushels per acre which is much short of what I have from the others. the Doctr. in whose opinion I have great confidence says that this is a very healthy country and says there are a great many instances of longevity throughout this country. The Doctr speaks in raptures of the Opelousas country he says the Opelousas country is exceeded by no country on earth for health and beauty and says there is nothing wanting but good society to make it one of the most desirable countries on Earth. I am so delighted with the Doctr and family that I cannot get away from them this Day and conclude to stay with him all night this is the only day that I have devoted to pleasure or amusement since I have been in public service and I feel highly gratified with the choice I have made in spending the Day with Doctr Hennin

Thursday morning February 25th 1819

Left Doctr. Hennin by Day break and arrived at Franklin soon after Sun Rise before most of the family at Mr. Reeds were out of Bed and breakfast at Mr. Reeds and soon after started in company with Mr. Hutton for Bayou Salee to take a view of that country being informed that there was a great deal Live Oak growing in the neighbourhood of bayou Salee. We arrived at a Mr. George Roysters (6) who lives on the head waters of Bayou Salee about seven miles from Franklin some time before dinner. Mr. Royster kindly invited us to dinner and to have our horses fed which we accepted. After dinner Mr. Royster informed us that if we would spend the day with him and stay with him all night that he would accompany us the next morning as a guide which

4. John Brownson, a native of Richmond, Vermont, married Caroline Stelle in Opelousas, March 11, 1823. Her sister, Fanny, married Joshua Baker of St. Mary Parish in 1824. Hebert, Southwest Louisiana Records, 161.

5. For details on Dr. Hennen and his wife, see "The Journal of John Lendreth," *Atakapas Gazette*, XV (1980), 73.

6. George Royster, a native of Virginia, was a resident of St. Mary Parish for many years (he is listed in the Census of 1810). His wife, Anne Bowes, died in 1831. They had four children: Thomas, died in 1832; Robert, married Sarah Kemper, daughter of Nathan Kemper and Ann Whiteaker, in 1830; Ann, married Robert Bresheer, son of Dr. Welter Brasheer and Margaret Berr, in 1835; and Elizabeth, married Jesse Lucy in 1832. Mary Elizabeth Sanders, Annotated Abstracts of the Successions of St. Mary Parish, La., 1811-1834 (Privately printed, 1972), p. 105.

Royster was still living in 1841 when his claim to 42 acres of preemptive land on the Bayou Salee area was surveyed.

we were much in want of. Being strangers we accepted his invitation and was most hospitably and kindly entertained by him and Lady.

Friday February 26th 1819 got up early and prepare for a start down Bayou Salee after Breakfast Mr. Hutton and myself accompanied by Mr. Royster set off to examine the Live Oak on Bayou Salee and in Riding down to near the mouth of Bayou Salee saw but four good Live Oaks and them on private property so much for the information we receive in this country we returned and dined at a Mr. Roberts (7) a native of Georgia a very kind hospitable old gentleman and in the evening returned to Mr. Roysters where we staid all night. Mr. Royster is a native of Virginia from near Richmond his wife from the same neighbourhood whose maiden name was Bowis is a handsome genteel and kind little woman. Here we meet with good living and true genuine Virginia hospitality without pomp or parade. Mr. Royster has been in this country several years and is doing well he is much pleased with the country he is one of the best farmers and planters I have seen in this country he keeps every thing in complete order he is truly a worthy man the Lands on the Bayou Salee is the very best farming and planting Lands I have seen in the Atakapas country here they make the very best crops of sugar and cotton and corn here from information that can be depended upon the average crops of corn is from forty to sixty bushels per acre here flex has been found to succeed very well and oats grows in superior stile here and from the looks of the soil I am very satisfied that wheat would grow and yield a most bountiful crop it being the genuine soil for wheat. Mr. Royster promises me to make trial of wheat next year the Bayou Salee Lands are extremely fertile high and comfortable and settled principally by true Americans from the Old States here they live and very well and enjoy good health and are getting rich here true genuine hospitality exists and the people live in the most cordial harmony one with another happy country and may God's blessing still attend you hear is a family of Gordias from Somerset County Eastern Shore of Maryland settled near the mouth of Bayou Salee who are highly respectable and are doing very well

Saturday morning February 27th 1819 got up early a most beautiful morning after breakfast in company with Mr. James Hutton leave Hospitable mansion of Mr. George Royster and return to Franklin. arrive at Franklin about ten o'clock A.M. there is a general muster here this Day the Capt. of the company is a Capt. Benton, a native of Scotland a very genteel active man. He is a nephew of Col. Benton of Mordaunt in the shire of Berwick Scotland a man that I originally knew. This Day two of the Mr. Gordies (8) from near the mouth of Bayou Salee have heard of me came to Franklin to see me. I am very much pleased with them they are very genteel well informed young men and speak highly in favour of the country both as to the healthfulness of the situation and fertility of the soil they confirm what I have heard respecting the average crops of corn they say that they think as far as their experience and observation goes that about forty five bushels to the acre of corn will upon the Lands on bayou Salee and they are determined to try it. the Mr. Gordies think with all other men of observation that I have conversed with about the Atakapas country that the climate and soil is as well cultivated as any on Earth to produce health and wealth and happiness to its possessors and nothing is wanting but an increase of valuable citizens to form a good society good schools and a regular preaching of the gospel the Mr. Gordies says that there is no Live Oak of any consequence in or about the Bayou Salee on either Public or private lands.

7. This man was probably Peter Robert, who died between 1820 and 1823. One of his daughters, Sarah A., was married to Michael Gordy, a brother of Peter W. and Benjamin Gordy. According to the files of Mrs. Clyde Alpha of Franklin, Louisiana, these three young men were sons of Thomas Gordy, a prominent Methodist minister of Worcester County, Maryland. A fourth brother, William, did not come to Louisiana, but his sons, William Quantin Gordy and Dr. John G. Gordy, did come to St. Mary Parish later on. Sanders, Annotated Abstracts of the Successions of St. Mary Parish, p. 179.

8. See above, footnote 7.

Sunday February 28th 1819 a severe storm last night of Thunder lightning wind and rain Sun Rise this morning Thermometer 54o wind and rain still continuing and grows very cold a very disagreeable day wind at Northwest Thermometer at noon 55o soon holds up raining bed green peas at Mr. Reeds this Day for dinner here with care and industry they might have every kind of garden vegetable every month in the year. Soon after dinner the Mr. Gordies return home except when conversing with the Mr. Gordies I have been employed in writing all day

Monday March 1st 1819 at Sun Rise cold but very beautiful morning March sets in handsomely I wish it may continue so Mercury 48o now the western waters are high there is a constant passing of boats loaded with the produce of the country for the New Orleans market sugar and cotton and a number of what they call keel boats pass Franklin every day down the Teche carrying from one hundred to three hundred bales of cotton each these boats are generally rowed by eight ten and twelve oars and a man to steer at sundown the thermometer 60o this has been a tolerable fine day

Tuesday March 2d 1819 at sun rise Thermometer 48o cold and clear a fine morning preparing for a start and unless something prevents us shall start for New Orleans in the morning by way of the Lakes and Bayou Sorral. had plenty of green peas for dinner today at noon thermometer 63o quit writing and sat about pecking up in the Evening Col. Locket who lives about two miles from Franklin sends his gig for me I go and spend the evening at his house Col. Locket and Lady are from Georgia are very kind and hospitable

here at Col. Lockets I met with a Mrs. Weeks a young married Lady a niece of Doctr Thrustons who I formerly mentioned She is truly an interesting Lady tho not handsome she is very intelligent and well informed possesses fine talents and genteel manners return from Col. Lockets about eight o'clock at night and soon want to bed thermometer at Sundown 52o

Wednesday March 3d got up early this morning and make ready for a start at Sun Rise thermometer 48o all in hustle all on board only waiting for a cup of coffee at Eight o'clock A.M. bid adieu to Franklin and steer down the Teche.

9. This is Winfrey Lockett, whose will was probated January 29, 1834. David Weeks of New Iberia was one of the executors of his will. Sanders, *Annotated Abstracts of the Successions of St. Mary Parish*, p. 179.

The Mrs. Weeks mentioned here is Mary Clare Conrad, wife of David Weeks, daughter of Frederick Conrad and Frances Thruston, and sister of Ann Alexander Towles.



COMING UP!

Beginning next issue, *Attakapas Gazette* will present a series from "Down Where the Sugarcane Grows," the reminiscences of a sugar planter, by James R. Kemper, C.E. The late Mr. Kemper recalls some St. Mary Parish people and events of the last century.

THE BIENVENU FAMILY OF ST. MARTINVILLE

Willie Z. Bienvenu, M.D.

(Continued from Vol. XV No. 2)

H. Thomas Edgard, born May 19, 1829, married first May 2, 1849, Marie Marthe Delila Mouton of Lafayette. He married second June 9, 1853, Elise Potier, daughter Charles Armand Potier and Marcelite Broussard (married January 15, 1818).

1. Thomas Thimecourt, born June 23, 1854, married December 17, 1878, Lucie Gabrielle Mereist, daughter of Auguste Mereist and Odile Gauthier

1. Bennett married Alice Pedeeux, no children

2. Laurence Gabrielle, born October 10, 1881, married first Martin Voorhies, no children; married second Alcee Girard, no children

3. Thomas Lucien married Lene Bienvenu, born September 1, 1887, daughter of Eugene W. Bienvenu and Alice Simon

1. Wilmer, born March 9, 1908, died November 9, 1978, married Lene Domingue

1. Merica, married James Robicheux

1. Susan, married Douglas Mohr

2. John, married Sue Berrett

3. Allen

2. Wilmer, Jr., married Billie Joyce Judice

1. Bonnie, married Jacques Bullard

2. Martin, married Donna Chestent

3. Anthony

4. Jody, married Remon Fuselier, Jr.

5. Dino

8. Scotty

3. Ellen, married Mike LaBlanc

1. Merk

2. David

2. Thomas Horece, born July 2, 1911, married Colleen Tete

1. Carolyn Tete Sevoy, married Samuel Inzerelle

1. Kim ann, born February 14, 1967

2. Samuel Anthony, born, September 11, 1968

3. Lise Marie, born October 31, 1969

2. Thomas Horece II, born June 23, 1949, married Myre Oubre

3. Michael Eric, born October 9, 1953, married Karen Guidry

4. Jeck Anthony, born February 22, 1961

3. Madeline, born October 23, 1912, married Mizael Bernard

1. Douglas, born December 14, 1937

2. Thomas Lucien, born November 7, 1939, married first Dianne Welker

1. Bret, born October 2, 1964

2. Scott, born September 27, 1968

married second Pamela Kincaid

3. Jennifer, born February 12, 1973

4. Jessica, born February 28, 1975

4. Herman, born February 11, 1918, married Marcelle Olivier

1. Louisette, born June 6, 1944, married Amary J. Champegne

1. Anne Catherine, born October 14, 1967

2. Stephanie Louise, born February 13, 1969

3. Thomas Martin, born January 31, 1975

2. Mercie, born November 24, 1945, married Jerry Delhomme

1. Jeffery, born December 28, 1970

2. Jeko, born January 10, 1975

3. Rebecca, born May 5, 1950, married Michael Lockhart

4. Bebetts, born December 19, 1951, married Nelson Duges

5. Gerelynn, born December 2, 1953, married Jerome Bourquin, Jr.

6. Mery Margeret, born March 10, 1960

4. Eugenie, married Gabriel Fournet

1. Margeret, married Frederic F. Bienvenu, son of Carlos B.

1. Sylvie, married George "Butch" McHugh

2. Fred, Jr., married Lynwood Weimer

3. Juliette, married Pierre Rex Landry, Jr.

2. Sylvia, married John Fournet (chief justice, Louisiana Supreme Court)
3. Rowena, married Edward Voorhies
 1. Eugenie
 2. Frances
 3. Daniel
 4. Rita Lucie
5. Charles Thimecourt, born March 29, 1887, died January 20, 1964, married Leole Durend, daughter of Gilbert Durend and Lellie Simon
 1. Charles Thomas, born September 28, 1911, died May 28, 1979, married Iseure Blanchard
 1. C. Thomas, Jr., married Roberte Thomas
 2. Glorie
 3. John B., married Dephe Devalcourt
 2. Roland, born September 28, 1917, married Helen Verne Moreist
 3. Leonard, born February 13, 1923, married Rosa Marie Lasher
 4. Milder, born September 10, 1928, married Rowena Flynn
 5. Leole, born December 11, 1930 (Sister M. Roland, R.S.M.)
6. Elise Edith, born October 18, 1888, married Francis Gauthier
 1. Anne Louise
 2. Lucy, married Conrad Gauthier
 3. Merie
7. L. Jefferson, born May 9, 1890, died August 4, 1946, married Beatrice Durand, daughter of Gilbert Durend and Lellie Simon
 1. Lester, born July 17, 1921, married Irene Blessington
 2. Bernard, born April 8, 1925
 3. Dolores, born February 8, 1930, married Kerl Conrad
 4. Gordon, born July 9, 1939
8. Viola, married Robert Resweber
 1. Sophie
9. George, married Beulah (?)
 1. Elizabeth (Betty)
10. Camille, born August 28, 1896, married Clifford S. Durend, born January 30, 1896, son of Gilbert Durend and Lellie Simon
 1. Merle, born January 24, 1921, married James H. O'Brien
 2. Phyllis, born March 19, 1924, married Charles J. Dobeillon, Jr.
 3. Camille, born March 19, 1924, married James M. Johnson
 4. Clifford S., Jr., born October 20, 1929, married Suzanne Berres
11. Maurice, married Alice Lebba, daughter of T. J. Lebba and Alice Bienvenu (daughter of Pierre Terville Bienvenu)
 1. Maurine, married Harold Resweber
 2. Maurice, Jr.
 3. Lebba, died in childhood
 4. Kenneth (Catholic priest)
12. Devince A., married Edne Bulliard, born August 1905, died March 11, 1947
 1. Merrill, married Dewey J. Fournet, Jr.
 2. Jacqueline, married Merket Richard
 3. Suzanne, died in infancy
2. Marie Lucille, born December 28, 1855, married September 9, 1875, Arcada Gauthier
 1. Edgar A.
 2. Regine M.
 3. Lucille
 4. Virginie E.
 5. Helen
 6. Sidney
 7. Cornelia
 3. Josephine, born February 26, 1858
 4. Benjamin, born November 24, 1858, died January 5, 1862
 5. Marcellite Editha, born October 23, 1870, married Jules Mereist, born 1869, son of Auguste Mereist and Odile Gauthier
 6. Jacques Rudolphe, born June 29, 1872, married first Edne Bienvenu, born June 12, 1882, daughter of Eugene W. Bienvenu and Alice Simon, married second Alix Gaudin, daughter of Authur Gaudin, Sr., and Octavie Boudreaux, no children by either marriage.
 7. Andre, born January 24, 1880

DESCENDANTS OF
CHARLES TIMOLEON BIENVENU

Jean Francois Gonsoulin, son of Jean Pierre Gonsoulin and Louise Desfigueres was born in Marseilles, France. He was assigned by the French government to be the official surveyor of the Attakapas post. He married at the end of 1779 Marie Louise Celeste Harpain de la Gauthais of New Orleans, the daughter of Pierre Rene Herpain de la Ceutres and Jeanne Bienvenu; granddaughter of Pierre Antoine Bienvenu and Francoise Rebut of Kaskaskie, Illinois. They were the parents of thirteen children:

- I. Marie Louise Celeste, born September 9, 1780, married Francois Caser Boutta, Jr., they had 14 children
- II Marie Anne Pouponne, born October 25, 1781, married Sebastian Cesteyo (Cestillo), they had 2 children
- III Marguerite Adeleide, born July 19, 1784, married Henry George Greig, they had 4 children
- IV Joseph Antoine, born March 17, 1785, married Mercelitte Ransonet, they had 11 children
- V Jean Baptiste Beeumelle, born March 17, 1787, he remained unmarried
- VI Pierre Antoine Herpain, born February 27, 1789, married first Isabella Miguez, they had 3 children; married second Adala Leleux, no children
- VII Clair St. Clair, born February 5, 1791, married Marcellite Bourgeois, they had 4 children
- VIII Marie Arsene, born March 5, 1793, she was unmarried
- IX Marie Pepite Josephine, born February 2, 1795, married Charles Timoleon Bienvenu, they had 5 children; married second Jean-Baptiste Bonin, they had 3 children
- X Louis Francois d'Ermencourt, born May 4, 1797, married Rosalie Pouponne Dugas, they had 4 children
- XI Jean-Baptiste Luzincourt, born March 1, 1799, married first Anastasie C. Bonin, they had 2 children; married second Constance Irma Prince, they had 2 children
- XII Jean Ursin, born March 23, 1802, married Emilia Laocadia Meyer, they had 3 children
- XIII Francois Valcourt, born April 4, 1805, married Elize (Helene) Hebert, they had one child

Charles Timoleon Bienvenu, fourth child of Alexandre Devincien Bienvenu and Henriette de Letil, was born February 2, 1791, died at age of 39 years, October 13, 1830. He married September 1, 1817, Marie Pepite Josephine Gonsoulin. She died November 20, 1880. The 1810 tax list of landowners and slaveowners of the Attakapas recorded their holdings as including 3 arpents frontage on Bayou Tache by 40 arpents deep. They became the parents of 5 children:

A. Marie-Josphine Sylvania, born November 30, 1820, died May 21, 1877, age 57 years, married March 15, 1838, Moise Duperon Bonin, son of Jean-Baptiste Bonin and Anastasie Broussard. They had 10 children:

1. Josephine Arsene, born September 20, 1840, died June 19, 1938, married first Ulinor Dugas

1. Agnes, born August 15, 1868, married Henry Adam Guidry
2. Dupre L., born January 8, 1870, married Marie Crochet, 8 children
3. Alzira, born September 22, 1882, married Joseph Crochet
4. Elize, born ca. 1872, married Cleopha Albert, 11 children
5. Motta, died 1919, married Emeline Rodrigues, 2 children

married second (—?) de Mohy, they had no children.

2. Paul, born January 26, 1839

3. Olympe Duperon, born August 25, 1843, married Joseph Dressall

1. Duke, born ca. 1868, married Josephine Lenglis, 4 children
2. Joseph Luc, born October 7, 1868, died November 13, 1925, unmarried
3. George Colgin, born May 24, 1878, died in childhood

4. Marie Corinne, born July 30, 1848, married Aurelien Braeux

1. Luzin, born August 2, 1869, married Marie Decuir, 6 children
2. Aurelia, born November 11, 1871, married Auguste Martin, no children
3. Theresia, born December 8, 1872, married Lezaire Broussard, 2 children
4. Paul Auvignac, born January 3, 1874, died in infancy
5. Numa F., born November 11, 1875, married first Clorissa Broussard, 3 children; married second Aline B. Judice, 3 children; married third Angeline Cheuffe, 1 child
6. Anna Euphrosie, born October 16, 1877, married Damos Broussard, 8 children
7. Hypolite, born June 25, 1879, married Anite Louviere, 4 children
8. Sylvanie, born May 30, 1881, unmarried
9. Ferdinand, born August 1, 1883, married Dozie Gonsoulin
10. Agnes Arsene, born January 29, 1885, married Alcide Bonin, 8 children
11. Antoine, born September 2, 1886, married Grece Seneca

5. Edgar Augustin, born ca. 1845, married Mery Medora Doziar

1. Henry Skyle, born November 12, 1871, unmarried
2. Louis Moisa, born November 20, 1873, unmarried
3. Leon Jecquiss, born July 13, 1878, unmarried
4. William Haywood, born October 14, 1877, married Euphemie Broussard
5. Marie Adelia, born February 8, 1882, died February 1955, unmarried
6. J. Fortuna, born August 15, 1893, married Aimee Martin

6. Amodee, born May 8, 1849, died January 12, 1851, age 2 years

7. Anastasia, born November 18, 1851, married Amodee Girouard

1. Anestessie Dorcianna, born April 1878, married first Amos Babers, 1 child; married second Henry William Graig, 7 children
2. Elizandie, born July 18, 1879, married Charles Hebers, 7 children
3. Robert Joseph, born March 17, 1881, married Merie Telley, 2 children
4. Albert, born February 11, 1883, married Jean-Baptiste Levioletta, 5 children
5. Jaanna, died in infancy
7. Moise, born December 13, 1893, married Stella Romero
8. Marie Louise, born June 8, 1895, married Aurelien Laviolette
9. Neville Andre, born July 18, 1897, married Evelyn Pelumbo

8. Cecile Ersilie, born August 4, 1855, married Louis L. Pellud, 1 child

9. Eufrida Olivia, born May 15, 1860, married Despenin Broussard

1. Edward, born April 18, 1862, married Alice Berres, 3 children
2. Jules Jerome, born ca. 1884, married Zalamie Blanchard, 1 child
3. Despenia, Jr., born 1886, died 1926, unmarried
4. Duperon, born November 1, 1886, unmarried
5. Amalie, born ca. 1890, married Willie Blanchard, 1 child
6. Pierre, born October 13, 1894, married Rose Prosper

10. Albert, born February 14, 1883, married Angalla Martin, 1 child

B. Cleir Albert, born May 20, 1863, died August 18, 1831, age 8 years

C. Jules, born August 18, 1825, died ca. 1881, married January 20, 1846, Aglee Broussard, daughter of Josephat Broussard and Arthemise Ransonet. They had no children.

D. Euphamia Amintha, born November 3, 1820, died ca. 1900, married October 18, 1847 Bertrand Deuterive Toffier, died May 17, 1878, son of Nicholas Bertrand Toffier and Adaline Dauterive

1. Hieronimus Florian, born September 30, 1848, married Cecile Broussard, 8 children
2. Nicholas Bertrand, born November 8, 1850, married Augustine Broussard, 8 children
3. William died in infancy
4. Charles Merchand, born ca. 1854, married Clara Augusta Jewell

1. Welter J., born June 8, 1879, married Lydia Bonvillian
2. Mary Augusta, born June 5, 1881, married William J. Warren
3. Mery Anita, born August 15, 1883, married Edmond Geston Boutte
4. Charles M., Jr., born ca. 1887, died December 28, 1954, unmarried
5. Clara Ann, born November 23, 1890, married Rossar Joseph Stroble
6. Beuregard, born 1894, died 1908, age 14 years
7. Eula Eve, born March 17, 1898, married Benjamin Holz

5. Sophie, born February 4, 1860, died May 1, 1922, married Louis Joseph Durend

1. Annette, died October 14, 1948, married Emile Vuillemot, 9 children
2. Corinne died in infancy
3. Amintha, born ca. 1886, died 1931, married first Zach Domengaux, 1 child; married second Georga Mansur, no children
4. Louisa, born February 1, 1888, married J. W. Steck
5. Louis Joseph, Jr., born February 1888, married Alice Aucoin, 5 children

8. Adeline, born 1863, died June 16, 1899, married Arsaud Nicobles Roth

1. Elizabeth, born 1883, married L. H. Allen
2. Adelaide Mary, born December 28, 1886, married Pierre Barollier, 2 children
3. Mery Beuleh, born August 9, 1887, married Dr. Victor C. Smith, no children

7. Paul, died in childhood

E. Marie Mothilde, born July 27, 1829, died January 27, 1906, married January 20, 1846, Gregoire Telephore Broussard, son of Don Louis Broussard and Marie Phelonise Broussard

1. Cecilia, born October 15, 1852, married Hieronimus Florian Toffier

1. Hypolite
2. Julia, born ca. 1875, unmarried
3. Laurence, born October 29, 1887, married Arthur J. Plessele, 2 children
4. Emile, died ca. 1925, married Anne Bonin, no children

5. Dauterive Toffier, unmarried
 8. Remy, unmarried
 7. Gilbert, unmarried
 8. Eve, married Oliver Courville
 2. Core, born July 24, 1867, died October 15, 1919, married Albert Blanchard
 1. Oliver, born November 21, 1891, married Julie Breaux, 3 children
 2. Olive, born May 10, 1894, married Laufroy Guidry
 3. Josephine, born October 20, 1897, married Medio Guidry
 4. Joseph, born July 5, 1892, married Victorio LaBlanc
 5. Marhilde, born August 18, 1898, married Emila Hill
 8. Albert, Jr., born July 17, 1899
 7. Elodie, born September 28, 1901, married Neuville Guidry
 8. Mertiell, born July 1907
 3. Alicia, born ca. 1830, married Emila Barras
 1. Demincourt (Ches.), born January 30, 1883, married Lucie Bonin
 2. Thomas, born September 7, 1885, married Maria Louise Crochet, 2 children
 3. Joseph Wilfred, born February 26, 1893, married Augusta Crochet, 3 children
 4. Felicia, born ca. 1842, died October 6, 1928, married Alfred Bonin
 1. Amintha Marie, born April 14, 1867, married Anetole Louviere, 10 children
 2. Methilda, born ca. 1866, married Felix Borel, 10 children
 3. Henry, born October 14, 1870, married Marguarita Albert, 5 children
 4. Clarville Paul, born December 30, 1873, died 1950, unmarried
 5. Alida, born May 3, 1878, married Albert Thibodeaux, 2 children
 6. Adam, born 1880, died 1907, unmarried
 7. Gilmen, born August 29, 1881, died April 12, 1944, unmarried
 8. St. Maurice, born 1884, died 1944, unmarried
 5. Joseph Arthur, born October 9, 1847, died 1911, married Anne Latricia Barres
 1. Fernend, born ca. 1877, died 1900, unmarried
 2. Marie Elfrade, born June 28, 1879, married Louis Landry
 3. Bertile (Berthe), died 1921, married Paul Dressel, 3 children
 4. Edward Joseph, born September 10, 1883, married first Antelia Hebert; married second Victorie B. Dupre
 5. Dosa, born June 25, 1885, married Joseph Arta Boudreeux
- Marie Pepite Josephine Gonsoulin married second December 31, 1835, Jean-Baptiste Bonin (widow of Clarissa Benoit) son of Jean Louis Bonin and Marguerite Prince. They were the parents of three children:
- F. Mortioi, born July 1, 1836, in New Iberia
1. Farnard Joseph, born December 29, 1868, married Louise Treppay November 9, 1911
 1. Dominic, born January 24, 1889, married Evalyn Fisher
 2. Robert F., born June 13, 1891
 3. Gertrude, born December 23, 1893, married Warren J. Jefferson
 4. Camilla, born December 23, 1896, married Luka Sheben
 5. Louise, born December 27, 1899, married John F. Broussard
- G. Auvignoc, born 1840, died September 30, 1927, married Eugenie Green
1. Maria, born May 10, 1870, married Jules Francois
 1. Weldo E., born ca. 1902, married Macrine Muntz
 2. Gledys, born November 9, 1903, married Lawrence K. Nelson
 3. Lilly Mae, born November 8, 1907, married George Bonfield
 2. Louise, born December 14, 1872, died October 24, 1887, unmarried
 3. John O., born May 20, 1874, married Clothilde Broussard, 3 children
 4. Paul William, born October 21, 1878, died in childhood
 5. Leurant Herpin Rena, born August 10, 1880, died 1902, unmarried
- H. Francois Volcourt, born August 10, 1840, died 1924, married Eugelde Broussard
1. Paul, born January 30, 1865, married Alice LaBlanc
 2. Thomas, born October 20, 1866, died September 27, 1887
 3. Joseph, born September 23, 1871, married first Angelle Gondron, 5 children, married second Emonia Broussard, no children
 4. Anatole Jos., born September 31, 1868, married Alziara La Blanc, 11 children
 4. Leonie, born August 21, 1877, married St. Maurice Bonin
 6. Lucie, born June 23, 1879, married Charles Borres, 8 children

[Source: Hierarchy of Joseph Francois Gonsoulin and Maria Louis Calista de la Gautrais, from the records of St. Mary Parish, assembled and produced by Mr. Benny Blakaman, Clerk of Court, November 25, 1968]

DESCENDANTS OF
PIERRE TERVILLE BIENVENU

Pierre Terville Bienvenu, fifth child and fourth son of Alexandre Davince Bienvenu and Henriette de Latil, was born November 20, 1793, died February 28, 1843, age 50 years. As his brothers, he fought at the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812, serving as a private in Captain Joseph Dubuclet's Volunteer Troop of Teche-Attakapas Hussars (mounted troops). One year after the Battle of New Orleans, on January 18, 1818, he married Genevieve Sophie Guicho de Kerlegand "of Frederickstown, Maryland." She was the daughter of Pierre Guicho de Kerlegand and Emile Grimblet, and was baptized in Jeremie, Santo Domingo, where her parents were residing. Sophie was brought to Louisiana in early girlhood by a family slave at the time of Toussaint l'Ouverture's slave rebellion in Santo Domingo, at which time her mother and father were murdered. Many of Sophie's books carried the following quotation: "Par la naissance, je ne craigne personne (By birth, I fear no one)." She died in St. Martinville, May 16, 1843. Pierre and Sophie were the parents of ten children:

A. Alexandre Emile, born November 26, 1817, married September 19, 1835, in St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans, Rosalie Laperle Gaeuregard, born June 30, 1809, daughter of Jean-Baptiste Beauregard and Eugenie Dubord.

1. Marie Josephine Almaide, born February 22, 1838, died March 21, 1915, married Eugene Delisle
2. Sophie Emile Laperle, born October 17, 1843, at New Orleans
3. Alexandrine Rosalie, born December 1846, at New Orleans
4. Alexandra Wilhelm, born December 23, 1847, At New Orleans, died April 14, 1901, married October 21, 1869, Blanche Marie Marionneaux

1. Blanche, died in infancy
2. George, born August 3, 1872, died in infancy
3. Little Adam (Alexandra), born October 9, 1873, married February 18, 1895, Martha Bonin

1. Emile, Jr., married Lydia Wiltz
2. Henry, married Thelma Boudreaux

1. Lawrance
2. Claire
3. Leone
4. Yvette
5. Helen
6. Henry, Jr.
7. Jill

3. Maude, married F. L. Vickers
4. Blanche, married Victor Gastinel
5. Rhona, married Edward Lisbony
6. Martha, married Clarence P. Cowart
7. Leone, married Maurice Fournet

4. Paul Walter, born November 19, 1878, died December 16, 1952, married February 5, 1902, Mathilde Wiltz

1. Marcel Joseph, born February 3, 1903, died August 23, 1903
2. Walter Antoine, born July 2, 1904, died June 13, 1905
3. Paul Francis, born October 10, 1906, married first Georgie Champagne
 1. Genn
 2. Gary
 3. Bradley
 4. Mary Ann

Paul Francis married second Margaret Castille

5. Will
6. Paul

4. Alton Jann, born July 13, 1909, married Evelyn Neuville
5. Antoine Wilhelm ("Will"), born July 5, 1911, married Marie Champagne
 1. James
 2. Michael

6. Marcal J., born September 15, 1914, married Edith Henry, born 1917

1. Wayne, born September 1, 1937, married Caroline Matijesich
2. Carolyn, born June 29, 1945, married Henry Paul Signorelli

7. Glauda, born July 17, 1918, married Verna Judice

8. Loretta, born September 18, 1918, married Arthur Richard, Jr.

1. Arthur III
2. Kathleen married Norman Ferriss

5. Marie, born September 11, 1878, died December 30, 1931, unmarried

8. Henry, born February 24, 1884, died January 25, 1915

7. Alica, born December 3, 1889, died February 28, 1958, married Theobald J. Lebbe, widower of Corinne Fleming

1. Blanche, born May 1924, married Clarence P. Gaudin
2. Theobald J., Jr., born 1927 (twin), married Anna Mae Maraist
3. Marguerite, born 1927 (twin), married George Germany, Jr.
4. Rita Ann, born January 25, 1930, married Chester Lukaszewski

B. Morie Tervilla (twin), born January 27, 1822

C. Charles Terville (twin), born January 27, 1822, died May 1, 1840, age 18 years

D. Charles Guerinier, born 1822, died 1883, married first May 20, 1842, Marie Hersilia de le Houssaye, born March 16, 1825, daughter of Nicholas Theodule le Pelletier Chevalier de le Houssaye and Felicite Aymthe Bienvenu, granddaughter of Alexandre Devince Bienvenu and Henriette de Latil. They had nine children:

1. Charles Cesar, born April 18, 1842
2. Philomena Arsene, born April 28, 1843
3. Maria Michaela Ganevieve, born October 21, 1844, married October 15, 1862, Louis Alfred Wiltz of Opelousas, son of Theophile Wiltz and Irene Villanueva. He was elected governor of Louisiana in 1880, but died the following year.

1. Georges, born October 15, 1863

4. Raoul Ame, born April 12, 1847, died August 16, 1854, age 7 years

5. Blanche Alice, born 1847, married August 7, 1867, Theodora Laizaire Broussard, born 1842

1. Guiniera, born 1868
2. Blanche, born 1870
3. Inez, born 1873
4. Walter, born 1876

6. Charles Guerinier, Jr., born January 21, 1848, married May 3, 1870, Pearl Olivier, daughter of Charles Ovignac Olivier and Elodie Meaton

1. Marie Josephine Elodia, born March 9, 1872, married Florian Cornay

1. Willie J., married Nita Comeaux
2. Ray, married Katherine Lyman
3. Adele, married Dr. George L. Smith
4. Fred J., married Louise Lendry
5. Howard J., married Louise Bossier

2. Marie Hersilia, born November 9, 1873, married Evans Guidroz

1. Pearl, married Louis Smith
2. Charles, married Eula Braaux
3. Lee

3. Charles Olivier, born March 17, 1878

4. Maria Pearl, born March 14, 1878, married Maurice Polingue

1. Lucille, born December 15, 1904, unmarried

5. Josephine Laure, born March 19, 1882, married Edward A. Greenwood

6. Blanche, born April 4, 1886, died August 7, 1967, married Walter Donlon

1. Genevieve, married Harold Dietlein
2. Lewis, married Florence Guchereaux
3. Walter J., Jr.

7. Gaston, born February 28, 1889, married Mary Whittington

1. John, died in childhood
2. James
3. Charles, married Marie Glada
4. Gloria, married Warren Salomon

8. Alicn, born May 29, 1893, married Tolson Derby

1. Joyca, born November 14, 1915, died March 8, 1918
2. Pearl Joyca, born March 19, 1918, married Lan Robert Cook
3. Alice Joyca, born August 11, 1920, married Frank Browning
4. Loyce, born February 4, 1923, died April 28, 1968, married Charles H. Weston
5. Mary Ann, born March 10, 1928, married Gerald O. Wright

7. Ursula Gebrielle, born January 19, 1850, married December 18, 1872, Willem B. Eestin, born July 4, 1849, son of Richard T. Eastin and Octavia Fontenette. They had 7 sons and 2 daughters

1. Hersilie, born 1873
2. Richard T., born 1875
3. Sidney A., born 1877
4. Willem, Jr., born 1879

8. Merie Adrienne, born April 27, 1854, died May 20, 1856, age 2 years

9. Edwin Hersilie, born October 1856, married June 6, 1874, Marie Dercienne Bienvenu, born February

4, 1855, daughter of Hypolite Nume Bianvenu and Felicite Anwaide Bienvenu

1. Adrienne (baptized Merie Josephine), born March 2, 1876
2. Joseph Charles Numa, born December 27, 1878
3. Joseph Edwin, born February 26, 1880
4. James
5. Darcienne

Charles Gueriniere married second January 20, 1858, Philomene Elodie Bienvenu, born October 16, 1838, died August 1, 1866, age 30 years, daughter of Henrietta Anaspasia Olivier and Francois Alexandre Bienvenu; granddaughter of Alexandre Devinca, Jr., and Uranie de la Barre. They had no children.

Charles Gueriniere, married third July 30, 1867, Merie Eudolie Fontenette, born 1832, widow of Titus Gerdelme. Their children were:

10. Joseph Lionel, born May 13, 1868, married October 23, 1890, Louise Jagou, died 1933

1. Louise
2. George
3. Lionel J. (M.D.), born January 23, 1897, married January 14, 1925, in Franklin to Garrie Rogers of Baldwin, La.

1. Lionel Joseph III, born March 9, 1931, married Rene Pat Collins

1. Patricia Glere, born 1959
2. Lionel Joseph III, born 1963
3. Louise Marie, born 1964
4. Willem Thomas, born 1968
2. Gillis Anne, born July 6, 1933
3. James Rogers, born June 12, 1937

4. Oscar J. (M.D.), born November 24, 1897, married 1925, Blanche Guilbeeu

1. Oscar Joseph II (M.D.), born January 5, 1930

1. Oscar J. III, born 1968

Oscar Joseph (4) and his brother Lionel (3)—both physicians—operated St. Rita's Clinic in Opelousas.

11. Rita, born May 13, 1868, (twin of Joseph Lionel)

12. Merie Eliske, born April 24, 1872

13. Bouelle, born 1871

14. Beligun, born 1873

*Charles Guariniere Bienvenu thought there were too many Bienvenus around, so he abandoned the name Bienvenu, and went by the name Gueriniere for a period of about 30 years. The records for this period are confusing, showing both names being used interchangeably by different people and the family.

E. Julietta, born 1822, died January 9, 1888, age 66 years, married first May 9, 1840, James O'Rourke of New York. She married second March 8, 1868, Laurent Arnaudet, born 1836, of Azat, France.

1. Bazilla, married 1872 Felix Bererd, born September 1847, son of Rosemond Bererd (1807-1867) and Odile Hubel (died 1859)

1. Marie
2. Therese
3. Alma, born February 12, 1876 (twin)
4. Anita, born February 12, 1876, married Ignace Bienvenu, born February 8, 1875, son of Adolph Berthelmy Bianvenu and Emma Parcel

1. Jeanne, married Victor Beslin
2. Rose Aimee, married Relpb Beslin
5. Rosemond, married Marie Odile Huvel
2. John
3. Charles

F. Stonislaus Devince, born November 16, 1826, died April 30, 1896, married Josepha Coralie Bienvenu, born February 8, 1834, died December 31, 1899, daughter of Francois Theodule Bienvenu and Celeste de Fontenette

1. Marie Alice, born July 2, 1853, married December 28, 1872, Sosthene Theriot
2. Ulysse Stanislas, born January 17, 1855, married December 3, 1879, Elise Maraist
 1. Marie Agnes, born February 8, 1881, died 1948, unmarried
 2. Celine, married William Michel
 3. Joseph Anatole, born February 28, 1888, married Laurence Prioux
 4. Ovide Jerome, born October 20, 1892, married Cecile Collins, born 1889
 1. Marie, born October 11, 1920, married Mitchell Talley
 2. Joseph Ovide, born February 19, 1922, married Shirley Romero
 3. Camille, born February 18, 1925
 4. Jeanne, born June 21, 1928, married Thomas J. Dugas
 5. Mildred, born February 8, 1931, married Marcel Maraist
 5. Joseph Andre, born 1894, married Biblene Cormier
 1. J. Andrew, married Lite Bonin
 2. Lilly, married Larry Harper
 3. Sigrid, married John Tereldsen
 4. Elizabeth, married Allen LeBlanc
 6. Odette, born November 17, 1904, unmarried
3. Marie Estelle, born August 24, 1936, married May 31, 1880, Alexandre Hebert
4. Paul Henri, born December 12, 1859, married May 20, 1886, Mary Elizabeth Shinn
 1. Coralie Mabel, born June 7, 1887
 2. Alice, born November 18, 1888
5. Marie Corelie, born November 10, 1862, died November 28, 1883
8. Octave Joseph, born November 10, 1864
7. Marie Laure, born July 13, 1869, died March 18, 1927, married October 8, 1889, Arthur Wolford, born August 7, 1867, died July 30, 1939
 1. Sidney Joseph, born November 19, 1890, died July 18, 1965, married Mamie Hebert
 1. Sidney Joseph, Jr., born April 22, 1912
 2. Earl Banks, born December 11, 1914
 2. Arthur Frederick, born July 6, 1892, died August 28, 1927, married Yette Lebourgeois
 1. Arthur Frederick, Jr., born July 22, 1914
 2. Carroll Elton, born August 22, 1915
 3. Roy Beverly, born January 9, 1919
 4. Laurie Owen, born October 17, 1920
 5. Bert Hylton, born January 9, 1917
 6. Jewell Elise, born September 1, 1924
 3. Lionel Thomas, born December 18, 1893, married Carrie Louise Polson
 1. Lionel Thomas, born March 30, 1928
 2. Charles Arthur, born April 7, 1931
 4. Ada Gertrude, born November 14, 1895, married John Irwin Viney
 1. Gertrude Bienvenu, born December 21, 1920
 2. Irwin John, born April 18, 1922
 3. Mary Portia, born November 16, 1923
 4. Ade Patricia, born January 7, 1929
 5. Maurice Patrick, born August 4, 1897, married Ella White Stroube
 1. Ethel Elme, born May 15, 1925
 6. Waldo Williard, born November 29, 1898, died June 30, 1959, married Ann Vanderworth
 1. Fred Vanderworth, born November 23, 1934
 8. Joseph Richard, born March 19, 1872
 9. Marie Philomene, born November 10, 1873
- G. Felix Thelismar, born 1831, married August 10, 1853, Charlotte Mathilde Bienvenu, born March 6, 1839, daughter of Francois Theodule Bienvenu and Celeste Fontenette

1. Merie Sidonie, born July 6, 1854, married December 18, 1877, Amedee Poleyard of Orleans Parish
 2. Amelia, born August 17, 1856 (Sr. M. Martina, R.S.M.)
 3. Merie Methilda, born June 11, 1858, married August 29, 1876, Paul Leufroy Robichaux of Lafourche Parish
 4. Felix Thalamer, Jr., born May 10, 1861
 5. Joseph Rene, born April 18, 1864
 6. Gabriel Joseph, born August 10, 1866, married October 31, 1887, Louisiana Duges
 1. Gabriel Joseph, Jr., born September 5, 1888, died 1907, age 19 years
 2. Rene
 1. Rene, Jr., (President of Northwestern Louisiana University, Natchitoches, Louisiana)
 3. Laurence, died age 26 years, married Charles Kretzer
 4. Methilde Mary, born February 10, 1918, married Joseph Ferdinand Gonsoulin, born September 12, 1895
 1. Joseph F., Jr., born February 12, 1917, married Violet McClenehen
 2. Harold Gabriel (M.D.), born 10, 29, 1920
 3. Gloria Louisa, born October 1, 1922, married Donald James Bishop
 4. Elodia Mary, born November 9, 1924
 5. Mery Ann, born November 27, 1925
 7. Berthelmy Rolland, born August 24, 1869
 1. Oriente, married Herman Hesenkamp
 2. Cleveland
 1. Cleveland, Jr.
 3. Margueritta, married [—?—] Welsh
 1. Daniel
 2. John (Jack)
 3. [—?—] (girl)
- H. Morie Sophie, married January 30, 1845, Jacques Alfred Bienvenu, born 1821, son of Francois Theodule Bienvenu and Celeste Fontenette
1. Maria Cacille, born March 10, 1846, married Devid Coudroy de Laureel, born 1817 of Guedeloupe, West Indies
 1. Alfred, born 1868, married Laurence Bienvenu, daughter of Adolphe Barthelmy Bienvenu and Emme Percal
 1. Isabelle, married M. P. Guirerd
 1. Lorrain, married Curry Cappel
 2. Alfred
 2. Louis, born January 7, 1893, died June 27, 1940, married Besilie Fuselier, daughter Gabriel Fuselier and Bezilie Fuselier
 1. Ethel May, born September 22, 1913, married William Douglas Steckmen
 2. Helen, born December 22, 1914, married Otto Joseph Brattrager
 1. Christopher, married Bonnie Maria Dugas
 2. Bonnie Isabelle
 3. Flore Marie, born December 21, 1921, married James Joseph LeBlanc
 1. Phillip, married Mary Lou Boudreeux
 2. Rabecce, married Alois John Picard
 3. Mery Feye, married Edward Lee Gembrill
 4. Berry Lawrence
 3. George
 2. George Rena, born November 7, 1869, died March 4, 1940, married 1896 Marie Ducrest, daughter of Leurent Ducrest and Ckeline Voorhies, born October 23, 1873, died October 27, 1959
 1. George D., born November 14, 1897, died December 19, 1968, married Aline Sullivan, 2 children
 2. Carmen, married George H. Gerdiner, no children
 3. Celeste, married Edward Boagni, Jr.
 1. Edward Boagni, III, M.D., married Ethel Haes, M.D.
 4. Maria, unmarried
 5. Boni J., married Dorothy Ledbetter, no children
 6. Margaret, married Warren Teylor, 2 children
 7. Thomas Hugh, married Laurita Evans, 3 children
 8. David, married Eva Allen, 4 children
 9. Paul, married Alice Hugbes, 4 children
 10. Henry Howard, married May Percy, adopted 3 children
 11. R. Todd, married Leeb Halloren, no children
 12. Charles Felix Frederick, born March 11, 1897, died June 12, 1899
 13. Francis Rogant, born February 27, 1905, died 1918

3. Medeline, born September 23, 1871
4. Merie, born 1872
5. David, born June 24, 1873
6. Cecile, born 1877
2. Joseph Ernest (Dentist), born February 11, 1848, married first October 26, 1871, Eugenie Aurelie Berard
 1. Joseph Eugene, born October 6, 1872, unmerried
 2. Merie Therese, born October 29, 1874 (Sister M. Mercy, R.S.M.)
 3. Merie Odile, born September 1877, unmerried
 4. Joseph Ernest, born April 10, 1880
 1. Grece
 2. Beatrice
 3. Genevieve
 4. Paul
 5. Ernest
 5. John Philippe, born May 27, 1882
 1. Stephenie
 2. May
 3. Joseph
 6. Isabelle, born 1886, died October 9, 1972, married Armand Clement, died 1932, age 46 years
 1. Clifton, born March 10, 1908, died March 10, 1973, unmerried
 2. Genevieve Mary, born January 5, 1911, married Holden Beedle, born 1909
 7. Paolo, married first Daniel Williams
 1. Genevieve
 2. Merion
 3. Daniel, Jr.
 4. James
 married second Francis West
 5. Frances
 8. Beatrice, married William Heron, no children
 9. Aurelie, married Leon Fournet
 1. Mildren, married Lloyd Lagerde
 2. Earl
 3. Roy
 Joseph Ernest married second (—?—) Bourgeois
 10. "Lolo"
 11. Onide
 12. (—?—) (boy)
3. Merie Elodie, born June 7, 1850
4. Merie Alicia, born May 1, 1852, died August 14, 1868, age 14 years
5. Joseph Emmanuel, born September 29, 1853
6. Corinne, born September 17, 1855



Two Oars

Named for two large oak trees which marked the walkway to the front, this frame cottage was once the home of John Lloyd Lewis and his wife Cordelia Wheeler. In the yellow fever epidemic of 1867, Lewis contracted the disease and died in this house. The house remained vacant for many years thereafter.

The property on which the house stands was first a Spanish land grant to Louis Judice, Jr. (See Gertrude C. Taylor, *Land Grants Along the Teche, Part II, Lafayette, La.*, 1980.) In ensuing years it passed into the hands of Jean-Baptiste McCarty, from his heirs to Daniel Clark, from Clark to Daniel Cox, and then to John F. Miller in 1839. It is possible that Miller built the house in the early 1840s as a home for his mother, Sarah Canby, and his sister Mary Ann Jane, who were living in New Iberia at the time. Noting that her grandmother died in 1851 and her mother in 1856, it is probable that John and Cordelia Lewis lived with them sometime during their lives there.

Having undergone much repair, renovation, and alteration, the house still stands on the corner of East Main and Ann streets in New Iberia. The interior of the house suggests that it was once the typical three-rooms wide, two-rooms deep construction of the time, with front and back galleries and outdoor kitchen. Nestled in an atmosphere of the old plantation days, it is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Patout Burns, who purchased the property in 1945.



HOW DO I LOVE THEE? *

THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF JOHN LLOYD LEWIS

By Gertrude C. Taylor

John Lloyd Lewis, the third of six sons of Thomas Lewis of Dowlais, Wales, came to the United States in the early 1830s as a tourist, bringing letters from friends to insure a pleasant social reception. So delighted was he with this new land that he went into business, and in a few years married. (1) He became well known and was well loved throughout the Attakapas for many years thereafter. (2)

Lewis was born at Dowlais, the property which had belonged to his family for many generations. Beside the house was a factory for weaving fine white flannel (for which Wales is celebrated), and, within a stone's throw of this pleasant ancestral home, three grand rivers, the picturesque Wye, the Dee, and the Severn, take their rise, and singing and gurgling, gathering strength with every mile, until broad and wild they leap into the ocean's depths.

It is no small wonder, then, that within this well-educated young man, to whom all the Celtic imagination, love of nature, and romantic feeling had come naturally, lay a poetic ability. This talent, though untrained, could not be restrained, and somewhat in the manner of his contemporaries, Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Lewis unleashed his gift in his love letters to his wife, Cordelia Wheeler Lewis, and in his expression of the joy he felt in the land and people about him.

*This title is drawn from the 43rd sonnet of *Sonnets from the Portuguese* (1850), by Elizabeth Barrett Browning. The sonnet begins: "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways."

1. John Lloyd Lewis married Cordelia Wheeler (date and place unknown), the daughter of Mary Ann Jene Miller and Nathan Wheeler and the niece of John Fitz Miller, who, at the time owned a large plantation on the east end of what is now the town of New Iberia as well as what is now called Jefferson Island. Besides banking business, he also had interests in racing stables in New Orleans as well as in the Attakapas. Upon his death, his niece and only heir inherited what was left of the property as well as all of the problems attached to it. See Glenn R. Conrad, comp., *New Iberia* (Lafayette, La., 1979), pp. 34, 38, 39, 362.

2. From the obituary of Matthew Lewis, 84, who died Tuesday night, Nov. 22, 1901, at his home in East End, New Iberia. *New Iberia Weekly Enterprise*, November 22, 1901.

Matthew Lewis was the brother of John Lloyd Lewis. His wife, Ann Lewis of Newport, Kentucky, was the chief beneficiary in the will of Cordelia Lewis, who died in 1883. Apparently Matthew and Ann Lewis came to New Iberia to live until their sister-in-law's estate was disposed of as specified in her will, made at the state of Kentucky, January 25, 1883. *Crittenden County, Kentucky, Conveyances, Book 2*, pp. 140-142.

While this first page of the following letter is an example of Lewis' adoration for his wife, it also gives an insight into the affairs of his wife's uncle (3):

New Orleans Dec. 9th 1853

Your welcome and loving apistle of the 3rd inst. was received yastarday, and it was to me like a wall of water in a thirsty land, but reiterated assurances of my affection are as unnecessary as 'Painting the lily or scenting the rose!' Our hearts beat in unison and if mine were guilty of one false throb to thee, the mysterious telegraph of love would communicate the fact to thine. We know that we love each other. Our hearts have been convinced of this long ago and thank heaven those hearts of ours are so full of pure affection that there is no room for doubt or suspicion to enter. Therefore all that we need to make us as happy as minstrels can be here below is to be together, to be united in our lives as in our hearts, and believe me, my dear wife, I am as anxious for our reunion as the 'wetchmen for the morning,' 'tha parched earth for the refreshing showers,' or the closed flower for the rising sun. In short, I long for it as much as you do. I am compelled to remain here until after the 16th, the day of your uncle's suit. The moment this is over I leave for the Attakapas . . .

Just when and where Lewis and his wife were married and when and why they came to the Attakapas is not known. However, the foregoing letter indicates that they were settled near New Iberia in 1853, (4) and that Lewis was acting as agent for his wife's uncle, John Fitz Miller. (In another poem Lewis states that he was Miller's lawyer.) The poem which follows, also a letter to his wife, had to have been written before 1857 when Miller died. In

3. This letter is from the collection of Mary Lawis Pomeroy and Emily Lewis Grant, now in possession of Miss Emily Grant and Mrs. Catharine Grant Sprowles of Baton Rouge. Miss Grant and her sister, Mrs. Sprowles, are great grand-nieces of John Lloyd Lewis. Their father, William Letcher Grant, was the son of Mary Lawis, daughter of Matthew and Ann Lewis.

4. John Lloyd Lewis and his wife lived in "Two Oaks," a frame cottage on Miller's plantation, the location of which is on the corner of the present East Main and Ann streets (probably named for Ann Lewis) in New Iberia. Interview with Mrs. Sprowles and Miss Grant.

Just when the house, of briquette-entre-poteaux construction, was built is not known, but details of the original structure indicate possible construction as early as the 1840s. It was not the home of John Fitz Miller, Cordelia Lewis' uncle, since records show that he lived in a two-story brick residence on the north side of the present East Main and between what are now Bank and Prairie avenues. For more on Miller's property, see Conrad, *New Iberia*, pp. 38-42.

A plat in Iberia Parish Courthouse shows four buildings besides "Two Oaks" on Cordelia Lewis' property: "Little Lenge Syna," located on the site of the Francis Voorhies property on East Main St. and later used as a kindergarten by the Grants; "The Cottage," another frame house located between "Little Lenge Syna" and the present Steinberg residence (This house was later the home of Matthew Lewis and the Grant family.); a small frame house on the bayou bank behind the two above-mentioned structures; and a small frame house facing the present Philip St. Cordelia Lewis' record books of accounts handled by James Lee indicate that "Two Oaks" was a whitewashed building enclosed by a whitewashed picket fence. It is possible that this was the house Miller provided for his mother, Sarah Cenby and his sister, Mary Ann Jans, since the two lived in New Iberia until the sister's marriage to Wheeler and the mother's death. The name "Two Oaks" was probably derived from the two oak trees on either side of the walk leading from the public road to the house, one of which is still standing.

perfect rhyme and rhythm, the poem describes Miller's Island (5) and Lewis' appreciation of its beauty and of its owner.

Some weeks ago I left the town
 With toil and care most broken down.
 To breathe Attakapas' pure air
 And live awhile on country fare
 As up the Teche the steamer glides
 Delightful places on both sides
 Present their charms to wondering eyes
 And fill the mind with glad surprise
 That thousands born in New Orleans
 Know nothing of these matchless scenes
 These prairies vast, these splendid farms
 Replete with nature's various charms
 'Tis doubtful if she could now bless
 Them; with a grace they don't possess.
 The planters here can truly boast
 Advantages not on the Coast
 For overflows they do not fear
 And therefore need no Levees here
 But my intention at this time
 Was just to sing in simple rhyme
 Of this romantic island hill,
 Where all is lovely; loveliest still
 Oh! for Sir Walter's graphic Muse
 That I might not my theme abuse
 Or Thompson's truly magic pen
 To point the hill, the grove and glen
 Though these rare gifts I don't possess
 I will attempt nevertheless
 To tell you of this lovely spot
 Once seen can never be forgot
 But first permit me just to say
 This morning shortly after day
 While thousands lingered still in bed,
 The Weekly Delta I have read
 Here as elsewhere you're much admired
 They tell you seer, or one inspired
 Things not transpired you're often told
 Like Delphi's Oracle of old
 Under the Oaks I read your sheet
 And thought of you in Poydres Street
 Where drowsy and calm eternal roll
 And kill the quiet of the soul.
 But, here in this desired retreat
 Secure from noise and dust and heat,
 I roam amid Arcadian bowers

And breathe the fragrance of the flowers.
 It is indeed a charming place
 Adorned with Nature's every grace.
 With "Benks and Brees" and flowery brake
 Wood crowned hills and silvery Lake.
 Upon the hill the Cottage stands
 Delightful prospect it commands
 On this enchanting rural sight
 I often gaze with rapt delight
 The sloping lews; the fine old trees
 Bending to kiss the westerly breeze.
 A thousand cattle on the lee
 Far in the distance the blue sea
 Beyond the far off woods is seen
 Like Petit Ance arrayed in green.
 And when you have a bright-clear sky
 The Bayou Teche you might decry
 Nought but the horizon bounds the view
 And every glance finds something new
 To please the mind or charm the sight
 And give the looker-on delight
 The Prairie wide, that Nature Mead
 On which the herd in freedom feed,
 Chequered with flowers before you lies
 A Picture for a Painter's eyes.
 Sometimes the Cattle move quite slow
 As if they marched to their own law.
 Anon they play and leap and run
 Their sleek sides glistening in the sun
 If from the house you wish to rove
 You'll find herd by a shady grove
 Where sheltered from the sun's fierce ray
 With Books you while the hours away
 Some of these splendid Oaks I'm told
 Had they but tongues strange things they'd tell
 Of this romantic Hill and dell
 To me there's something very grand
 In these Old Oaks that round me stand
 Trees that for Centuries have stood
 The hoary Monarchs of the Wood.
 Underneath their welcome shade
 The Redmen oft his couch has made
 While antlered deer were sporting round
 In this his favorite hunting ground
 When tired of hunting he could take

5. This poem is part of another letter Lewis wrote to his wife. In true Romanticist form, it is written in rhymed couplets of iambic tetrameter.

His light canoe upon the Lake.
 Old Isaac Walton could not wish
 A more delightful place to fish
 Besides you need not fish all day
 And go without a mess away
 But if you wish a splendid trout
 Throw in your line and jerk him out
 Here too you find where ere you range
 Varietys sweet interchange
 Of hills and vales and borky dells
 Where timid Puss securely dwells
 The Lake serene before you lies
 A faithful mirror of the skies
 Not Como's Lake or Katerine blue
 Are most enchanting to the view
 Now down the sloping hill you glide
 Anon you're by the dingle side
 And now you're on the open plain
 Then in the tangled woods again
 The town has troubles cares and slights
 These harmless woods have pure delights

There's music in the murmuring wind
 That fens the Cheek and soothes the mind
 Sweet odors freight the Zephyrs wings
 And every breeze fresh fragrance brings
 Stolen from the wild delicious flowers
 That bloom and die in these wide bowers
 The mocking bird the live long day
 Pours forth his sweet Melodious lay
 The woods ere vocal with the Sound
 And all is life and joy around
 Fish, flesh and foul ere also found
 In greet profusion they abound
 Woodcock and Snipe, Wild duck and deer,
 And every kind of game is here
 In short, all Nature could bestow
 On favored mortals here below
 Friend John F. Miller owns the place
 And does the honors with much grace

Long may he live—long may he thrive
 There is no better man alive

Lewis did not long ponder the beauty of this "paradise," for two years after Miller's death, Cordelia Lewis, Miller's heir, sold the place to satisfy his debts. (6)

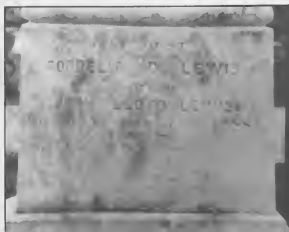
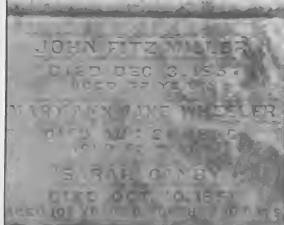
For the next ten years, Lewis stood by the side of his adored wife, helping her in her attempt to unravel the problems she had inherited coupled with those of the Civil War. During these years they lived at "Two Oaks," a frame cottage on Miller's plantation, and it was there that Lewis contracted yellow fever and died, September 13, 1867. (7) Cordelia Lewis, perhaps distraught over her beloved husband's death, returned to her native Kentucky where she died in 1883.

6. For more on Miller's or Orange Island, see Glenn R. Conrad, "Wilderness Paradise," *Attokapas Gazette*, XIV (1979).

7. Facts concerning the Lewis family were obtained in an interview with Miss Grant and Mrs. Sprowles, Sept. 21, 1979.

The outbreak of yellow fever in New Iberia that year also took the lives of William Robertson's son, of the esteemed Hervey Hopkins, and of the brave Dr. Robert Hilliard. Other families in mourning were French, Fourcade, Etie, Lomperez, Pellerin, Deuteriva, Mesteyer, Olivier, Bienvenu, Delehousseye, Lassus, Provost, Bergerie, and Derouan, and others. Conrad, *New Iberia*, p. 139.

Because of the fear of yellow fever, "Two Oaks" remained unoccupied for many years after Lewis' death, and it was eventually turned over to a New Orleans bank to satisfy Cordelia Lewis' debts. In the early 1890s, the house was rented to Alexis Voorhies, and just about the turn of the century, the house was sold, afterward passing from one owner to another until J. Patout Burns bought the place in September 1945.



In mute voices, gravestones tell the history of a family laid to rest a century or more ago. Memorials to John Fitz Miller, his mother, his sister, and his niece and her husband stand quietly in Rosehill Cemetery in New Iberia. Although these people are virtually unknown today, they were once important in the antebellum life of the Attakapas region.



THE 1900 CENSUS OF NEW IBERIA

(Continued from Vol. XV, No.2)

WEEKS	STREET (cont.)	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
170	BOURG, Joseph	Nov. 1861	18				Carpenter
	Emma	July 1855	18				
	Celestine	June 1886					at school
	Wallis	Aug. 1888					at school
	Virginia	Sept 1890					
	Jennie	Dec. 1893					
	Gusie	Dec. 1897					
173	OZENNE, Raphiel	Nov. 1848	32				Day laborer
	? (Wife)	Nov. 1850	32				
	Eve	Sept 1871					
	Adam	Nov. 1872					
	Mathilde	July 1874					
	Emile	Mar. 1876					
	Clovis	? 1879					
	Felix	? 1882					
	Laura	Oct. 1883					
	Camille	? 1885					
	Edward	? 1888					
	Viola	1889					
	Eugène	1892?					
174	?						
175	?						
176	BONIN, Theodore	June 1843	26				Carpenter
	Mary	July 1853	26				
	Theodore	Nov. 1875					Fisherman
	Bertha	Sept 1877					Seamstress
	Dumas	Mar. 1879					Carpenter
	Cecilia	Nov. 1880					
	Homer	Dec. 1886					at school
	Louis	Jan. 1888					at school
	Lena	Sept 1892					at school
177	BONIN, Valier	Jan. 1868					Carpenter
178	DAVIS, Frédéric	Mar. 1846	29		Eng.	Miss.	Butcher
	Rosela	Aug. 1850	28				
	Joseph	Mar. 1876					Butcher
	? (female)	Sept 1880					
	Sterling	Apr. 1897					
	SCHOUVAN, Lucille	July 1898	(granddaughter)				
179	MIGUEZ, Ernest	Sept 1848					None
	Louis	July 1870					Painter
	Mavis	May 1874					None
	Felix	May 1880					Painter
	Louise	Dec. 1888					at school
	Ernestine	Aug. 1889					at school

<u>WEEKS STREET</u> (cont.)	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
181 LANDRY, Louis	June 1876	2				Stocking salesman
Corinne	May 1878	2				
Lillian	Mar. 1899					
182 BLANC, Frank	June 18647	12	La.	France	La.	Carpenter
Mathilde	Jan. 1866	12	La.	La.	La.	Milliner
Mabel	Nov. 1894		La.	La.	La.	at school
MIGUEZ, _____	May 1840	(mother-in-law)				
184 GUILLOT, François	Apr. 1847	27	France	France	France	Bricklayer
					(Nat., 1871)	
Sylvia	Mar. 1844	27	France	France	France	
					(Nat., 1872)	
Eugène	May 1874		New York	France	France	Brick Mason
Charles	May 1876		New York	France	France	
Louis	Dec. 1878			France	France	Brick Mason
Marie	Feb. 1883			France	France	
Louise	Jan. 1885			France	France	at school
192 ANDOE ?, Antoine	July 1867	2				
Eugenie	Dec. 1874	2				
Mary	May 1892					at school
Bermuda ?	Apr. 1894					at school
Will	Nov. 1899					
193 HART, Thomas	_____ 1855	22				?
Annie	July 1860					
Harly	Jan. 1879					
Letitia	Jan. 1881					
Amelia	June 1883					
Robert	? ?					
Thomas	Feb. 1888					
Louis	Feb. 1890					
194 GAJAN, Joseph	Dec. 1878		La.	France	La.	Grocery salesman
Elodie	Jan. 1848	(mother) 32				
Louis	_____ 1876	(brother)				
Isadore	Jan. 1887	(brother)				
Emily	June 1882					

CENTER STREET

202 Kramer, Henry	? ?	24	Germany	Germany	Germany	Stable Keeper
Elizabeth	July 1848	24				
Henry	Sept 1879					Day Laborer
Joseph	Oct. 1881					Day Laborer
Louis	July 1884					
Willie	Feb. 1886					at school
DAIGRE, Angelie	Mar. 1879	(niece)				

CENTER STREET (cont.)	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
204 MESTAYER, Agatee	July 1842	20 (wid.)				
Frank	Apr. 1863					Deputy Sheriff
HERBERT, Paul	May 1856	(brother)				Police officer
DARBY, Viel	Apr. 1844	12 (brother-in-law)				Post Office Clerk
Elizabeth	Mar. 1846	12 (sister)				
205 BOUTTE, Octave	May 1874	4				Carpenter
Clara	Apr. 1876	4				
Vida	Sept 1894					
Milton	July 1898					
LANDRY, Bertha	May 1884	(sister-in-law)				
BOUTTE,	May 1830	(grandmother)				
BUSSICK, Maria	Sept 1888	(cousin)				at school
206 COOKSLY, Samuel	Jan. 1844	26	England	England	England	Ship Carpenter
			(Nat., 1867)			
Elizabeth	Mar. 1844	26	Ireland	Ireland	Ireland	
			(Not Nat.)			
John	May 1876		La.	England	Ireland	Day Laborer
Annie	Aug. 1885		La.	England	Ireland	at school
Samuel	Nov. 1887		La.	England	Ireland	at school
207 DURAND, Sophie	Mar. 1862	8 (wid.)				Hotel keeper
Anne	Mar. 1881					Day Laborer
Emmeth	Aug. 1886					at school
Louis	Feb. 1888					at school
Louise	Feb. 1888					at school
GIRARD, Anthony	Oct. 1881	(boarder)				none
208 BAUMAN, Fred	Oct. 1859	19	Miss.	Ger.	Ger.	Notary Public
Jennie	July 1861	19	La.	Ire.	Ark.	
Ethel	Sept 1882		La.	Miss.	La.	
Fred	May 1883		La.	Miss.	La.	Day Laborer
John	Nov. 1884		La.	Miss.	La.	Dry goods salesman
Percy	Nov. 1886		La.	Miss.	La.	at school
Henry	Nov. 1888		La.	Miss.	La.	at school
Bessie	Apr. 1891		La.	Miss.	La.	at school
Walter	Apr. 1900					
209 SINNET, Amy	Feb. 1840					Landlord
Emily	May 1845	(sister)				Landlord
210 GONSOULIN, Joseph	Feb. 1866	10				Carpenter
Mathilde	May 1870	10				
Raymond	Apr. 1881					at school
Gustave	May 1883					
Albert	Feb. 1886					
Robert	Apr. 1899					
Roberta	Apr. 1899	twins				

CENTER STREET (cont.)	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
211 CAPPONI, John	May 1869	6				Day Laborer
Mary	May 1875	6				
Emile	Oct. 1895					
John	Aug. 1897					
Antoinette	May 1899					
212 PICKETT, Alfred	May 1858	11				R. R. Agent
Elizabeth	Nov. 1866	11	La.	La.	Ky.	
Adeline	Sept. 1890					at school
Alfred	Jan. 1892					at school
Charles	June 1863					at school
213 DELASSUS, Gaston	Jan. 1869	3				Fire Ins. Agent
Anna	Nov. 1874	3				
214 GAYLE, Thomas	July 1873	3				Dentist
Lelia	Sept 1874	3				
Thomas	May 1898					
215 ETIE, Raphael	Apr. 1865	11				Bookkeeper
Emmie	June 1870	11				
Onida	Apr. 1890					at school
Marie	Apr. 1893					
Donald	Oct. 1899					
SANGUINETTE, Electa	Mar. 1876 (sister-in-law)					
216 SIEBECK, Antoine	Aug. 1878	2	La.	Ger.	La.	Barber
Emily	Jan. 1879	2	La.	France	La.	
Francis	Oct. 1898					
Joesphine	Nov. 1899					
217 RENOUD, Alfred	Oct. 1871	4				Real Estate Agent
Lillia	Apr. 1877	4	La.	Fr.	La.	
Marie	Aug. 1898					
Marguerite	Feb. 1897 ?					
218 FREEMAN, Leo	May 1876					Grocery salesman
224 JACQUEMUD, John	Sept. 1857	13	France	France	France	Carriages & Wagons
Margueritte	May 1870	13				
Raoul	Sept 1889					at school
Rosalie	Aug. 1893					
Antoinette	June 1899					
226 Conan ?, Francis	Mar. 1860	11	La.	at sea	Miss.	Physician
Clemie	Sept 1860	11	La.	Tenn.	La.	
Clemie	Sept 1892					
Francis	FEB. 1898					

CENTER STREET (cont.)	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
229 STANSBURY, Robert	Dec. 1842	3	La.	Md.	Md.	Grocer
Ozier ?	May 1858	3				
Lula	Nov. 1899					
NORRIS, Travielle	Jan. 1886					
230 ETIE, Alfred	Oct. 1869					Brick Mason
Camilla	Aug. 1836 (mother)		La.	Canada	La.	
LACOSTE, Marie	May 1877	1				
Claude	Mar. 1872	1				Painter
235 LANGLOIS, Bertrand	Feb. 1875	2	La.	Fr.	La.	Carpenter
Enize	Dec. 1874	2				
Bernedette	Mar. 1898					
Bertrand	Mar. 1900					
Paul	May 1868 (brother)					Carpenter
Joseph	Jan. 1878 (brother)					Carpenter
236 ROGER, Auguste	May 1855	22				Grocer
Félice	Apr. 1851	22				
Elias	Jan. 1879					Carpenter
Lunia	Dec. 1880					Carpenter
Lydia	Sept 1884					at school
Lysia	Dec. 1886					at school
?	Feb. 1891 (son)					
237 STANSBURY, Albert	May 1874	3				Butcher
Coremath ?	Apr. 1873	3				
Josephine	Mar. 1899					
BERARD, Clara	Dec. 1878 (sister-in-law)					
Odelon	July 1828 (father-in-law)					Farm laborer
238 ETIE, St. Cyr	May 1867	8				
Ida	Jan. 1874	8	Texas	Miss.	Texas	
Ida	June 1892		La.	La.	Texas	at school
Esther	Oct. 1895		La.	La.	Texas	
Mabel	Aug. 1898		La.	La.	Texas	
240 CARRET, John	Mar. 1849	22	France	France	France	Butcher
			(Nat., 1873)			
ABADIE, Maria	Dec. 1878 (daugh)					
Louis	Feb. 1876 (son-in-law)					Carpenter
CARRET, Theodore	Feb. 1884					Day Laborer
Jacques	July 1887					at school
ABADIE, Leonce	Sept 1899 (grandson)					
243 DeROUEN, Albert	Apr. 1838	32				Farmer
Alphonsine	Jan. 1846	32				
Shillman, Victoria	Jan. 1887 (daugh.)					
Derouen, Jackson	? 1880					
Dorcian	Sept					
Bodin, Alzier	June 1882 (granddaugh.)					

CENTER STREET (cont.)	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
244 GONZALES, William	May 1871	5				Night watchman
Bertha	May 1880	5	Germany	Germany	Germany	
Camille	Oct. 1897	(son)	La.	La.	Germany	
Heiderke, William	May 1877	(brother-in-law)	Germany	Germany	Germany	Day laborer
245 BOUGEARD, Emile	Jan. 1852	28				
Azelina	Aug. 1856	28				
Salina	July 1885					
Ledia	June 1891					at school
Lellia	Mar. 1898					
246 KOCH, Julius	July 1861	14	La.	Germany	La.	Druggist
Louella	Mar. 1866	14	La.	Miss.	La.	
Julius	July 1891					at school
Arthur	Aug. 1892					at school
Fisher	May 1896					
Robert	Aug. 1899					
Fisher, Jessie	Dec. 1880	(son-in-law)				
248 VEAZEY, Marie	Mar. 1848	32				
Walter	Oct. 1876	(son)				Grocer
Mye ?	Mar. 1882	(daugh.)				
Beulah	Aug. 1889					at school
Strong, Mina	Mar. 1883	(niece)				
Hensbricks, John	May 1855	(lodger)	La.	Ky.	La.	Lumber salesman
Darricott, John	Apr. 1850	(lodger)	Canada	Canada	Canada	Grocery Broker
249 SMITH, Mary	Apr. 1833	27	La.	France	La.	
Kate	Dec. 1857	(daugh.)				
Mary	Apr. 1860	(daugh.)				
Elizabeth	July 1862	(daugh.)				Schoolteacher
250 SMITH, Henry	Oct. 1864	8	Tex.	La.	La.	?
Lena	Oct. 1868	8				
Olga	May 1894					
251 FLORY, Alphonse	May 1841	33	France	France	France	Harness Repair
Louise	Jan. 1842	33	La.	France	La.	
Alex	May 1873		La.	France	La.	Blacksmith
Alphonse	Feb. 1875		La.	France	La.	Blacksmith
Robert	May 1877		La.	France	La.	Blacksmith
Fernaud	Sept. 1880		La.	France	La.	Blacksmith
Sidney	Mar. 1883		La.	France	La.	at school
Louise	Sept. 1878		La.	France	La.	

<u>CENTER STREET</u> (cont.)	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
264 TODD, David	Aug. 1851	15	La.	Ky.	Tenn.	Attorney
Annie	Apr. 1864		La.	Ireland	England	
David	Mar. 1889					at school
O'Neill	June 1891					at school
Agnes	Feb. 1893					at school
Liza	Dec. 1895					
Isabel	Aug. 1899					
Robert	Jan. 1826	(father) 49	Ky.	Ky.	Ky.	
Annie	Jan. 1827	(mother) 49	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	
Sally	Sept 1864	(sister)	La.	N.Y.	Tenn.	
265 CARSTENS, Ernest	Oct. 1842	25	La.	Denmark	France	Dry goods sales
Amelia	Sept 1843	25	La.	N. Y.	La.	
Ernest	Oct. 1876					Comm. travel
Maud	Sept 1879					
Clere, Florence	Jan. 1881	(daugh.) 1				
Rene	Nov. 1875	(son-in-law) 1	La.	Switz.	France	Commer. travel
Carstens, Charles	Feb. 1882	(son)				at school
Milton	Sept 1883	(son)				at school
266 WALSH, John	Nov. 1851	24	La.	Ireland	Ireland	Carpenter
Jeanette	Dec. 1853	24	La.	Scotland	Ireland	
William	Apr. 1877					Day Laborer
John	Feb. 1879					Asst. R. R. Agent
Ann Ida	July 1881					
Sarah	Feb. 1885					at school
Thomas	Oct. 1887					at school
Mary	Jan. 1891					at school
Emma	Feb. 1894					
267 NORRIS, Marie	June 1858	(wid.)				
David, Ellen	Oct. 1874	(wid.)				
Ella	July 1889					at school
268 ETIE, Aristide	July 1879	3				Contractor
Antonia	Oct. 1878	3	La.	Spain	La.	
Melvin	Aug. 1897					
Canilla	Aug. 1899					
<u>CENTER STREET</u> (cont.)						
309 VIATOR, Alida	? 1860	21				Seamstress
Josephine	Jan. 1890					at school
Delchaner, Leona ?	June 1887	(niece)				at school
Adela	May 1890	(niece)				at school
Cedonia	Mar. 1893	(niece)				
Silvia	Oct. 1896	(niece)				

<u>BANK AVENUE</u>	Date of Birth	No. of years Married	Native of	Father native of	Mother native of	Occupation
277 LOPEZ, Henry	Jan. 1861	15				Drayman
Clara	Apr. 1869	15				
Laurence	Aug. 1886					at school
William	Dec. 1887					at school
Isadore	May 1889					at school
Wilford	Dec. 1890					at school
Joseph	Dec. 1892					
Albert	Sept 1895					
Edna	Apr. 1898					
285 WIDNEY, Charles	Sept 1851	30	Ind.	Ind.	Ind.	Drayman
Sarah	Nov. 1847	30	Mich.	N. Y.	N. Y.	
Ida	Feb. 1885		La.	Ind.		
301 ETIE, Emanuel	Dec. 1870	5				Brick layer
Louisa	June 1872	5				
Randolph	Oct. 1895					
Dewey	July 1898					
Simpson, August	Sept 1881	(brother-in-law)				Carpenter
302 BOURGUIRES, Elodie	Aug. 1844	(wid.)				
Gautreaux, Leonie	June 1882	(nephew)				Glazier
303 HEIDERK, Carl	Apr. 1840	13	Germany	Germany	Germany	Day Laborer
					(Nat. 1882)	
Lizzanne	Mar. 1854	13	La.	La.	La.	
Frederick	July 1887		La.	Ger.	La.	at school
Effie	Jan. 1890		La.	Ger.	La.	at school
Rivers	May 1892		La.	Ger.	La.	at school
305 TAUL, Israel	July 1865	18	Russia	Russia	Russia	Dry goods
					(Nat., 1887)	
Sarah	Feb. 1867	18	Russia	Russia	Russia	
Maggie	May 1887		Russia	Russia	Russia	at school
Rose	July 1889		Mo.	Russia	Russia	at school
Katie	July 1891		Mo.	Russia	Russia	at school
Nathan	Sept 1893		La.	Russia	Russia	at school
Tellie	Sept 1896		La.	Russia	Russia	
Pearl	Feb. 1897		La.	Russia	Russia	
Retha	May 1900		La.	Russia	Russia	
Alexandria, Isadore	Mar. 1897		Poland	Poland	Poland	Dry goods sales
					(Nat., 1870)	
306 RISENSERY ?, Abraham	Aug 1862	13	Poland	Poland	Poland	Tailor
					(Nat., 1889)	
Lena	May 1869	13	Poland	Poland	Poland	
Morris	July 1887		N. Y.	Poland	Poland	at school
Daniel	Mar. 1894		La.	Poland	Poland	at school
Ida	Sept 1896		La.	Poland	Poland	
Silverman, David	July 1880	(nephew)	La.	Poland	Poland	Tailor

BOOK REVIEWS

THEY TASTED BAYOU WATER: *A Brief History of Iberia Parish.* By Maurine Bergerie. (1962; reprint ed., Ann Arbor, Michigan: Edwards Brothers, Inc., 1980. \$10.).

When Maurine Bergerie's *They Tasted Bayou Water* appeared in 1962, it proved a welcome addition to the historical literature of Louisiana and of Iberia Parish in particular. Its limited edition was soon out of print. The Bicentennial of the founding of New Iberia celebrated in 1979 revived an interest in it and is largely responsible for the second printing of this excellent history of Iberia Parish.

Some minor changes have been made. These include two additional black and white illustrations, a second epilogue "1979" and a note calling attention to errors in the body of the book.

It may be well to note its contents for the benefit of those still unfamiliar with it: Early History, Early Settlers and Homes, Agriculture and Agricultural Products, The Towns and the People, Commerce and Industry, Social and Cultural Life, Epilogue, Selected Bibliography, "1979."

One of the most interesting parts of the volume is a 61-page Appendix which is largely composed of translations of Spanish documents on file in the Archivo General de Indias in Seville, Spain, the *Papeles procedentes de Cuba*, Legajo Nos. 576, 600, 606, 2358. These deal with the settlement of Nueva Iberia and with contracts signed by 15 individuals who wished to come with their families from the Granada Coast of Spain to settle in Louisiana. They were signed in the city of Malaga. It is regrettable that this section is not included in the otherwise adequate index.

Reproductions which enliven the work total 9 maps, 6 sketches and 29 photographs.

Readers are reminded that this is also a limited edition.

PEARL MARY SEGURA

Lafayette, La.

THE LOUP-GAROU. By Berthe Amoss. (Gretna, La.: Pelican Publishing Co., 1979. 48 pp. Illustrations. \$6.95.).

The Loup-Garou initiates a series of books for children intended to acquaint Louisiana youngsters with their heritage. This story takes place in Nova Scotia. The year is 1755 and little Robert, an Acadian boy, is caught in the *Grand Derangement*. He and his father are among the four hundred or so men imprisoned in the Grand Pré church as prelude to the deportation. With Robert's help the father succeeds in escaping, wrapped in a wolf skin which makes him appear like a Loup-Garou and the family seeks refuge with the friendly Micmac Indians. Later they will go seek another Acadia down "where the great river meets the sea."

As can be expected from Berthe Amoss, a highly skilled juvenile writer, the story is deftly told and charmingly illustrated. It is to be hoped that subsequent volumes in the series will live up to the promise of this first one.

MATHÉ ALLAIN

University of Southwestern Louisiana

GENEALOGY NOTES AND QUERIES

1850 CENSUS OF CALCASIEU PARISH, LOUISIANA, edited by Geneva Bailey Seymore. (Hebert Publications, 1980). Contains 626 families, 2957 names, about 100 pages. Indexed. \$15.00. Available from Hebert Publications, P.O. Box A, Cecilia, La. 70521.

BAILEY-BOURET, by Geneva Bailey Seymore. (Privately printed, 1980). This publication is Volume I of a proposed series of ancestral lines. It includes descendants of the first Bailey in Louisiana (Willian Britton Bailey, born about 1806 in Tennessee who married Sarah Clark in Louisiana in 1830, through Horace Bailey who married Clarisse Breaux who later married Francois Bouret of Leige, Belgium, and their descendants to 1979). About 68 pages. Indexed. \$10.00. Available from Geneva Bailey Seymore, 5009 42nd St., Lubbock, Texas, 70414.

John W. Benoit, P. O. Box 232, Jennings, La. 70546, would like to know if anyone is researching these surnames: BENOIT, DEROUEN, GAUTHIER, MELANCON.

Is anyone tracing the ALEXANDER-JENKINS families? Mrs. William L. Mills, 2800 Austin Ave., Waco, Texas 76710, wants to get information concerning her great great grandfather, Dr. John T. Alexander who was listed as representative from the Attakapas District to the organizational meeting of the Louisiana Medical Association in New Orleans. His first wife, Mary Jones, died in 1835. His second wife was Millenium K. Jenkins. In 1840 they were in Ouachita Parish; in 1850, Caddo Parish; and in 1852 they arrived in Travis County, Texas, where they continued to live. Mrs. Mills will gladly share the information she has from that time on with anyone who can help.

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Notice

NOTICE

Volume VI, No.4 of Attakapas Gazette, out of circulation for some time, is now back in print. Those wishing to fill in the gap should send in \$2.50 for which they will receive a copy immediately!

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# DOWN WHERE THE SUGAR CANE GROWS

## *The Reminiscences of James P. Kemper\**



### Part I

#### It Was Nature's Idea

Many people have never heard of Bayou Teche. Some might associate it with Longfellow's *Evangeline*, but that would not enlighten them much for Longfellow was never there. He wrote entirely from notes, the authorship of which I have heard contested. Quite a few know it well and love it dearly, and many would love it if they knew it. It is to them particularly, I address my observations.

Do not expect Bayou Teche to make a big splash; it is scarcely a hundred miles long and a few hundred feet wide. It heads at Port Barre, La., about nine miles east of Opelousas, where it originally debouched from Bayou Courtableau as what we engineers call a sub-distributary. Its creation was part of a scheme of the Supreme Ruler to build this country and make it beautiful and useful with the detritus from all over the valley.

I really would enjoy describing it to you for it was a wonderful accomplishment of Nature. In fact, to make an admission, I did have it all described with accuracy and precision and those who read the manuscript said "Cut it out; people do not want to hear an engineer's report." I had also described how the salt domes which underlie this wonderfully resourceful land were thrust upward, thereby compressing the animal and vegetable matter contained in the soil, deposited through the ages, turning its organic matter into gas and oil, how this oil gravitated down the slope of the salt dome until some of it was trapped in fissures, or faults, as the geologists call them, and were thus prevented from sinking beyond the reach of human

\*James Perkerson Kemper (1868-1949) was a native of Glencoe, Louisiana; however, most of his life he spent in Franklin, Louisiana. At a very early age Kemper entered the University of Maryland. He received his Bachelor of Engineering degree from the University of Alabama in 1887. Several years later he received the degree of Civil Engineer. He practiced electrical engineering in Chicago for a while; then he returned to Louisiana where his ancestors had settled in the very early 1800s. There he studied the behavior of floods and river hydraulics. He was an honorary and life member of the Louisiana Engineering Society, the latter awarded in recognition of work on flood control.

Kemper was the author of three books: *Floods in the Valley of the Mississippi*, published in 1928; *A Plan for Peace*, published 1943; and *Rebellious River*, published 1949 by Bruce Humphries, Inc., Boston, Mass.

skill, and how the smart engineer located these faults, or some of them, and sank pipes into them, releasing a wealth of black gold.

I must say, however, that an alluvial stream builds up its own banks, precipitating the sediment from the overflow water until the banks ultimately get above flood water or very nearly so. Bayou Teche is such a stream. Its own banks hold the flood waters from the Atchafalaya in check, preventing them from encroaching on the lands to the west.

This is all changed now. There are levees, floodways, and spillways, completed or in course of construction. This narrative will describe the old Teche before the wise guy, man, undertook to rule the Father of Waters, or, at least, before he thought he had it under his rule.

Bayou Teche is not magnificently grand like mountain torrents. Its beauty is picturesque. Its total slope in a hundred miles is scarcely more than forty feet, hence its flow is what might be termed sluggish. But why be in a hurry? It seems to invite one to linger along the route, take his time and enjoy the beauty of the trees and flowers upon the banks, to note the beautiful symmetry of graceful curves, of which there are so many, so regular as to suggest that they might have been laid out with a transit. Close to the water's edge are ferns and iris, cypress and tupelo gum trees; back on top of the ridges are live oaks, the grandest of all trees. Some of them spread their limbs to a width of a hundred feet and some of the branches come down and touch the ground. They are evergreens with a small wax-like vividly green leaf. The French call them *Chene Vert*. There are magnolias, some of whose trunks are six feet in diameter near the ground, and red gums and various other types of oaks along with sycamore, elm, and ash. But none of these can compare with the Live Oak; it is in truth the monarch of the forest.

But, of course, civilization, with all its destructiveness, has taken an hand. Many of these trees have been cleared away to make room for agriculture and to furnish timber for the sawmills.

Horrible to contemplate is the fact that a wanton axeman can, in a half hour, fell a beautiful tree that required, under the all wise laws of Nature, five hundred years to grow. Most of the live oaks have, however, remained, for two principal reasons: they have too many crooked limbs to be desirable as mill material and they are too hard to be attractive either to the axe or the saw. They are, therefore, retained for shade and ornament. Evangeline rested under at least a dozen of them between Patterson and St. Martinville, to hear the natives tell it.

Not everyone knows how to distinguish between a river, a creek (or "crick" as the Yankees call it) and a bayou. I have read lengthy descriptions of Louisiana bayous which explained everything except what makes a bayou different from a river or a creek. A river is generally larger; it comes from the high ground. Its slopes are great near the source, gradually flattening out as it approaches the sea. A true Louisiana bayou never saw high ground; it is a creation of the alluvial plain. This plain, containing about 30,000 square miles, was once an estuary extending up to Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The various streams of the valley, extending from the Rockies to the Alleghanies, filled this estuary with deposit, leaving the Mississippi River as the channel to carry the runoff to the sea.

In time, the Mississippi and the Red, which was fulfilling a similar gigantic contract from the west, made junction. During floods, the water overflowed the banks, depositing sediment and making new land. There must always be a channel for the water to follow to the sea through this made-land and that is what a bayou is. The two dominating characteristics are the gentle slopes and the below-sea-level bed. In consequence the velocities are never great. It is a lazy stream, and whether it runs upstream or down seems to be a matter of indifference to it. The direction and velocity are determined more by the tide than by the rainfall.



I remember once directing two negro laborers to pole a flatboat of lumber a short distance down one bayou to its mouth and around a bend and up another bayou to its destination. I explained to them that the tide would be with them going down and would turn just in time to be with them coming up the other bayou, thereby being of great help to them. The idea had a splendid appeal to them because poling a heavily loaded boat is no labor of love. I went on ahead, and they were many hours later arriving than I had calculated. My first question was, "Didn't the tide help you?" One responded promptly, "Never before have I been helped so much to work so hard." My timing of the tide seemed to have been in error; it changed at the right time but in the wrong direction, giving them head tide both ways. This may not have been due to any cross purposes between the moon and me. The Lunar tide on the Gulf is very slight, and, as often as not, it is completely overcome by the influence of the wind.

This erratic instability of character of a bayou, which seems to make it unable to make up its mind whether to go up or downstream, sometimes has dire consequences; yet, if taken at the flood, at just the right time, might lead on to fortune.

Many years ago, on a guess about seventy, a lady brought to Louisiana from Brazil (other sources have been blamed) some bulbs of a beautiful lily. It was a water lily, the bulbs filled with air so they could float. She put them in some water and they sprouted and bloomed, and behold, Solomon in all his glory had his array eclipsed at least for a second time. Friends came from afar to get bulbs. Florists sold them three for twenty cents. My sister bought three. She put them in a tub of water but they were soon crowding themselves out of the tub. In fecundity they made rabbits look like the barren fig tree. There was nothing to do but give them room to strut their stuff. Into the bayou they went. Not just our little bayou but in a very short time all the slow moving streams of South Louisiana became infested with water hyacinth.

They did not have to toil and spin any more than did those lilies of the field that put Solomon in the shade. They just let the wind and tide move them around on the water while they multiplied. If they saw the tide running up a bayou, as if through curiosity they followed it but, when the tide turned to go back, the lilies clung to the bank or to any object that would save them the return trip, even though their transportation was furnished free.

A boat can push through them until the propeller chokes, when the engine must be reversed to clear it. A stern wheeler can back up onto them, throwing them under the boat and riding them down, but it is slow and expensive going. Frost will kill the tops, but it is never cold enough to make a job of it. Plenty will come out in the spring and soon increase a hundred fold. Salt water will kill them, but comparatively few ever reach salt water. In behalf of navigation, the government sprays them with an arsenic solution which kills the tops and causes many to sink, thereby thinning them out and also thinning out the cattle that graze on the arsenated bulbs that happen to reach shallow water. A mill has also been built on a barge to grind them into pulp. Some good must have resulted because they have been here a long time (I fought them fifty years ago) and navigation still persists. Booms are used effectively to keep them out of bayous and canals. If they can be held in the current of a large stream, they will eventually reach the Gulf.

I recall an incident of many years ago when a timber man wanted to use a certain bayou in which to locate his pullboat for pulling cypress logs into the water whence they could be floated to the mill. (Further on I will attempt to describe this process.) He told me he was afraid it would cost him two thousand dollars, which might be more than the traffic would bear. He let it be known that he wanted to clear the bayou of lilies and one day a Creole made his pirogue fast to the pullboat and climbed aboard, prepared to drive a bargain. He explained how thick the lilies were and how hard it would be to remove them. Finally, he

made his price—fifty dollars. He realized, he said, it was a lot of money, but it was also a lot of work.

The man who was willing to give two thousand dollars was skeptical of his ability to fulfill, but he told him to go ahead, not expecting any results. He had been outsmarted. In addition to the pirogue, the equipment consisted of an axe and a hook; there was also a small tent to sleep in.

Our operator established himself at the mouth of the bayou and began breaking the lilies loose from the bank. When the current was running down, he would shove huge clusters of lilies out into the stream. When the tide changed, these lilies found themselves locked out from their happy home by a boom. On the next turn of the tide, these lilies traveled further down stream and the boom was opened for a second batch of lilies to be let out. Our operator stayed with the job, taking advantage of the tide, and completed the contract in record time, making more money than he had made in a long time. Taking that tide at the flood led on to his fortune, even though a little one. The pullboat man was both surprised and happy.

TECHE is a peculiar name and no doubt was derived from something, but I have never heard a dependable explanation. Some say it is Indian for snake. It is pronounced TESH. I remember many years ago a steamboat which plied those waters had the name TECHE across the pilot house. In those days steamboats had to go into tight places. The Teche came out of an encounter with limbs of a tree on the bank minus a part of the pilot house, and for a long time thereafter, the starboard name of the TECHE was TE HE and that was not meant to be laughed at.

Bayou Teche was navigable for light craft boats almost throughout its length, when the white man came. Land clearing and draining into the bayou, however, has tended to fill it with sediment and make it shoal. Channel maintenance is still in effect and a lock has been installed at Keystone to extend navigation to the upper reaches.

But the necessity for navigation is not urgent like it was before railroads and good highways traversed its banks. Even within my recollection, a trip to New Orleans was an expedition. It involved an eight mile drive across the prairie, generally over bad roads, to reach the Teche in order to catch the boat. Just when the boat would arrive, could not be determined by several hours, but of one thing there was no doubt; it would be far into the night. Its whistle could be heard for hours before it arrived. And it was all so confusing. Because of the bends in the bayou, one could not tell whether the boat was coming or going. For instance, from St. Martinville to New Iberia, while only nine miles by road, is thirty miles by Bayou. The boat one hoped to eventually board, was going away from him a third of the time.

And when the boat finally arrived at one's landing, the ardor of his joy of welcome was seriously dampened by what he found himself up against. I refer particularly to filth. The old Minnie Avery, which plied these waters three quarters of a century ago, had, through consistent performance, won a reputation which went with her to her watery grave. It was necessary to be warned not to mistake your bed mates for snapping turtles, "Cooters" they were sometimes called. Not to be confounded with cooties which belong to another genus. But the food was fair and the coffee good; the scenery most pleasing to the eye. The captain was always glad to see the traveler and, in all probability, some of his acquaintances or friends whom he had not seen for a long time were aboard. Notwithstanding the slow progress and many stops, it didn't seem so long, after all. People were not in such a hurry as they now are. They knew where they were going and were willing to consume the necessary time to make the trip. They did not run their legs off to go they hardly knew where, to do they hardly knew what in order to hurry back they hardly knew why.

The destination of the boat was Morgan City, or Brashier, as it was then called. There was the terminus of the New Orleans, Opelousas, and Great Western Railroad, built in 1853, from New Orleans, eighty miles away. Quite a long name for so short a railroad but the Civil War had blasted plans and it was not until 1873 that Charles Morgan bought it and extended it west under the name of Morgan's Louisiana and Texas Railroad, which name it still bears, as part of the great Southern Pacific system.

The Morgan City railroad bridge was built over Berwick Bay in 1882, on cypress piling foundation, in water more than a hundred feet deep, a daring venture which was entirely successful. As traffic loads increased, the superstructure was reinforced and finally, in 1905, it was replaced by a new bridge. The creosoted cypress piling were found to be as good as they were the day they were installed, twenty-five years before. Cypress is indeed the "wood eternal."

Over the bar, at the mouth of the Atchafalaya, a channel about ten feet deep was maintained and traffic connection with Galveston was made by side wheel steamers. A picture of the old WHITNEY, a side wheeler which plied this route, can be seen on the wall in the Southern Pacific office.

After the rail communication was completed, this water traffic was discontinued. Now a land protected canal, permitting a draft of nine feet, skirts the marshes of Louisiana's coast line to the Sabine River and thence, far into Texas, with Brownsville the ultimate destination. Already its capacity is overtaxed and enlargement a post war agenda.

In those days, a train left Morgan City for New Orleans every day so the remainder of the trip was a matter of routine. It usually consumed the best of three days, each way to negotiate the 120 miles from my plantation home on Bayou Cypremort (Cypress Mort-dead cypress) in St. Mary Parish, to New Orleans.

There never was a question of enough trips being made to attend to business, all of which was concentrated in New Orleans, and also to permit the adult and some of the teenage members of the family to spend some time each winter in the metropolis, either during Mardi Gras or when Booth and Barrett, or Joe Jefferson, or Modjeska, or Adelina Patti, or Minnie Maddox, both New Orleans girls, or some other five dollar a ticket performer was on the boards. And, too, there was the French Opera. Some of us like it, and none of us would dare say he or she didn't.

To us old ones, this retrospection awakens pangs of regret. A good stage show is unattainable outside of New York and then, after an almost interminable wait and at a staggering cost. Because of blissful ignorance, the young people do not mind it. They apparently enjoy the canned article as much as we oldsters did the real, pulsating thing.

But not only did we have to get to town; our sugar did also. In fact, the sugar had to get there first or, at least, our commission merchant had to know it was coming.

Water from the winter rains mixed with alluvial silt in the road and stirred by the wheels of wagons loaded with hogsheads of sugar, soon creates an impenetrable barrier of mud. All of our sugar had to be hauled eight miles to the boat landing at Bayou Teche. In rainy weather the roads became impassable. The following incident will illustrate some of the early transportation difficulties.

On Bayou Teche, the plantations extend across the bayou, necessitating a bridge for each plantation. Being private bridges, the planters had to build and maintain them. The stream being navigable, drawbridges were necessary. The cheapest possible drawbridge was made by decking over small flat boats called pontoons, placed side by side. They were fastened at one end to piling so the bridge can swing. The open end of the bridge was fastened by a chain to clusters of piling in the bayou. To open the bridge, a man with a lever walked in a circle,

winding the chain around a drum. To close it, he wound in the opposite direction. These bridges were a clear violation of the navigation laws, but they were tolerated because the cost of a legal bridge would, in many cases, have been prohibitive. All the responsibility was with the owner, of which fact the navigator was fully aware. If a boat ran into a bridge, all that happened was the owner fixed the bridge and paid damages to the boat owner, if damages were incurred. There would be no argument for fear the bridge would be condemned.

There was much towing of logs in Bayou Teche in bygone years and logs could not pass under a pontoon bridge. While the tow was passing through, the bridge must be open, making it closed to land traffic. It might take an hour for a tow to pass through a bridge.

On one occasion, I happened to arrive at a plantation of a kinsman of mine who lived on Bayou Teche at the moment a tow of logs was passing through his bridge and he was waiting to open the bridge to land traffic because he was hauling sugar cane across the bayou to his mill. Thirty or more wagons were loaded with cane and standing in line. On the opposite bank were many empty wagons waiting to cross the bridge and return to the field to be loaded. In the field, the loaders of those wagons were idly enjoying the "break" the tower of logs was giving them.

I remarked, "Cousin Henry, I do not see how you can ever get this cane hauled under such a handicap."

He replied by telling me of a visit he made to my father when he was hauling sugar to Bayou Teche. It was one of those rainy spells. Several wagons were bogged to the axle. Hogsheads of sugar were being unloaded, rolled on improvised skids across the mudhole where they were reloaded onto the wagons and hauled to the next impenetrable mudhole to again be bogged down and again unloaded. Whereas there were probably fifteen or twenty of these wagons loaded with sugar, each hogshead weighing twelve hundred pounds, the project was an extensive (as well as expensive) operation.

Cousin Henry told me he had made substantially the same remark to my father that I had made to him, and his answer to me would be similar to the one my father gave him: He had been doing it that way for thirty years and he had never left any sugar behind because he could not haul it to the boat at Bayou Teche because of bad roads.

Bad roads were the greatest drawback that rural residents had in those early days and yet no one seemed friendly to the roads. Water was drained onto them but seldom away from them. Notwithstanding the fact that land was cheap, the roads were always located on the lowest instead of the highest ground and were very narrow. Many people seemed to resent other people using the roads, particularly those who had something weighty to haul. Of course, everybody's living came out of the product being hauled but vision necessary to see this did not exist.

We had a neighbor between us and Bayou Teche whose property was on a high, well drained, sandy ridge. The public road was in the rear in low black soil that, in the wet season, would bog a Jacksnipe.

Sometimes our neighbor let us haul through his field road and sometimes he wouldn't. I remember on one occasion he had agreed to let us haul and, when the wagons got to his gate, he turned them back, saying he had changed his mind. To a high strung man of my father's type, this was both humiliating and very annoying.

Finally, in 1884, we got a railroad over violent legal opposition by our neighbor, and the heavy road hauling was over.

I have often wished my father could have lived to see the roads of today. But he took his troubles standing up. To be a pioneer one must have had guts. These old timers had guts but polite society would not permit it to be expressed that way. One was taught to be careful of his language before and during the Gay Nineties.

Getting technical again and speaking geologically, Bayou Teche completed its mission of land building, sealed off its source so no more water laden with sediment to be distributed could enter its realm and then sat back at its ease, with nothing to do but adorn its banks and look pretty until the destroyer of the status quo, that disturber of innocuous desuetude (with apologies to Grover Cleveland) the white man, came along and began fighting Nature, chopping down trees and letting them rot, sometimes just to rob the bees of a few pints of honey, stirring up the soil and letting much of it wash away, building levees to show the water where it must and must not go, as if Nature, the builder of the alluvial plain did not know more about where to run the water than they did. So hoggish was their greed that they scorned all natural laws, failing to realize and show gratitude for the fact that Nature was willing and anxious to go along with them on a percentage basis, giving them the earnings if they would not impair the principal.

The timber is practically gone; the water has risen and has smote the usurpers and will continue to smite them until an intelligent, reasonable flood control policy is put into effect.

Men are learning to take care of the soil now that the new is worn off and the surplus is all taken up. They are even beginning to protect the muskrats that give Louisiana first place in fur production. They are making exceedingly heavy draught upon the mineral resources, but salt seems to be in unlimited quantity and there is nothing to do with the oil but to use it, as it can not be restored. The same may be said of the gas and sulphur.

God smiled upon this country far beyond our appreciation.



# COURIR DU MARDI GRAS

By Barry Jean Ancelet

The country Mardi Gras celebration of South Louisiana differs greatly from its carnival counterparts in New Orleans and Lafayette. Essentially, the *courir du Mardi Gras* is a remnant of the medieval *fête de la quémande* with influences from the frontier heritage of the Louisiana prairies.

The *fête de la quémande* was celebrated by a procession of revelers who travelled through the countryside offering some sort of performance in exchange for gifts. Several modern celebrations are vestiges from this same source: Halloween costumed children making threats of trick or treat, Christmas carolers singing for hot chocolate or hot toddy, the charivari group making noise until treated to food or drink. During the *courir du Mardi Gras* a band of masked riders sing and dance to the traditional song (which has its origin in medieval modal music) expecting a contribution (ideally a live chicken) (1) to their communal gumbo shared later that day.

Reinforcing its medieval origins, the traditional costumes for the *courir* have roots in medieval dress. In addition to the unavoidable modern clowns, monsters, and cartoon characters are the conical hats (originally in parody of medieval nobility), mitres (in parody of the clergy), and more rarely, mortarboards (in parody of scholars). False collars and brightly colored costumes often in harlequin sequences add their medieval flavor. A certain medieval atmosphere is further provoked by the processional nature of the Mardi Gras celebration. (2) Instead of taking place in a fixed location, like a festival, it moves through the countryside. Moreover, musicians in the closed wagon following the riders evokes images of the jesters of the Middle Ages whose only role was to provide entertainment for the court, and just as the jester never really participated directly in the festivities for which he provided entertainment, the Mardi Gras musicians never come out of their wagon to take part in the activities of the riders.

In addition to its medieval begging celebration origin, the *courir du Mardi Gras* is characterized by a mystique of toughness reminiscent of the days of the American Wild West, the anonymity of the masked riders generally providing an ideal reckoning ground for quarreling parties. In earlier times scores were often settled on this day with bare fists, knives, and even pistols. Additionally, groups of riders, overwhelmed by the festive spirit, mildly terrorized a visited household, forcing women to dance, vandalizing the property, and stealing from the house (usually the kitchen).

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1. For similar Franco-American ceremonial begging celebrations, compare *la Guignolée* in Missouri and *la Mi-Carême* in Quebec.

2. The Mardi Gras Indians processions in New Orleans are similar in this respect.

Throughout the 19th century and even into the early 20th century, the *courir du Mardi Gras* could be found in most areas of French Louisiana from the Mississippi River to the Texas border. (3) With the arrival of Americanization and the "civilizing" effect of new schools and churches, however, the often rowdy celebration disappeared from the annual cycle of Louisiana French folklife. In the early 1950s, a growing group of cultural activists in the Mamou area, under the leadership of Paul C. Tate and Revon Reed, undertook to revive the traditional Mardi Gras run. They sought guidance from older members of the community, notably from Lezime Fontenot, "Petit-Nan" Augustine, and Marcelus Deshotels who remembered running Mardi Gras and even remembered parts of the traditional Mardi Gras song which itself describes the nature of the celebration:

Capitaine, Capitaine, voyage ton flag.  
Allons se mettre dessus le chemin.  
Capitaine, Capitaine, voyage ton flag.  
Allons aller chez l'autre voisin.

Les Mardi Gras se ressemblent une fois per en  
Pour demander le cherité.  
Ça va aller de porte en porte  
Tout à l'entour du moyeu.

Les Mardi Gras viennent de tout partout,  
Ouais, mon cher bon camerade.  
Les Mardi Gras viennent de tout partout,  
Mais tout à l'entour du moyeu.

Les Mardi Gras viennent de tout partout,  
Mais principalement de Grend Mamou.  
Les Mardi Gras viennent de tout partout,  
Tout à l'entour du moyeu.

Voulez-vous recevoir  
Mais cette bande de Mardi Gras?  
Voulez-vous recevoir  
Mais cette bande de grands soulards?

Les Mardi Gras demandant la rentrée  
Au mettre et le metresse.  
Ça demande la rentrée  
Avec toutes les politesses.

Donnez-nous autres une petite poule grasse  
Pourqu'on se feise un gumbo gras.  
Donnez-nous autres une petite poule grasse  
Tout à l'entour du moyeu.

Donnez-nous autres un peu de la greisse,  
S'il vous plaît, mon ceramie.  
Donnez-nous autres un peu du riz,  
Tout à l'entour, mon emi.

Les Mardi Gras vous remercient bien  
Pour votre bonne volonté.  
Les Mardi Gras vous remercient bien  
Pour votre bonne volonté.

On vous invite tous pour le bel à ce soir  
Là-hes à Grend Mamou.  
On vous invite tous pour le gros bal  
Tout à l'entour du moyeu.

On vous invite tous pour le gros gumbo  
Là-bes à la cuisine.  
On vous invite tous pour le gros gumbo  
Là-bes chez John Vidrine.

Capitaine, Capitaine, voyage ton flag.  
Allons se mettre dessus le chemin.  
Capitaine, Capitaine, voyage ton flag  
Allons aller chez l'autre voisin.

(As sung by Elby Deshotels, recorded by Harry Oster)

In reviving the tradition, Tate and Reed took great pains to render the celebration respectable and relatively safe for both riders and the community. This effort, anchored in the absolute control of the capitaine, encouraged the continuation of the *courir* by virtually

eliminating fights and the element of danger. (4) The Mamou version of the celebration, however, by virtue of its precedence and of its deliberate sense of tradition, provides an ideal model for understanding the *courir du Mardi Gras*.

A certain aura of outlawry has not entirely vanished from the modern version of the celebration in Mamou, which effectively resists transformation into a simple tourist attraction by its sheer toughness. In fact, the celebration, strictly limited to male participation, is sufficiently exacting to be a functional *rite de passage* for the young men of the community. (5) Reminiscent of the *rite of passage* of primitive societies, the social initiation on the morning of the ride is accentuated by solitude and anonymity, and, all inhibitions being removed, the initiate passes through the essential part of the ordeal: being all he dares to be. Except for the limited list of rules imposed by the game itself, there is virtually no limit to the personal freedom of expression available to the rider.

Participation in the Mamou Mardi Gras begins several weeks in advance with a series of informal meetings to determine certain administrative roles for the event, such as beer truck personnel, tractor drivers (to pull wagons for those without horses), and musicians. The capitaine, named for life by his predecessor, chooses his co-capitaines who will assist him during the ride. There are no elections; the Mardi Gras Riders Association makes no concessions to democracy. Brief business meetings quickly take on the nature of rallies, building excitement for the coming ride.

On the eve of the celebration, riders make final preparations for the *courir*. These preparations are often complicated by the fact that many riders handle horses once a year, on Mardi Gras. Moreover, many riders, to avoid recognition, exchange horses several times before Mardi Gras day, and, since many local riders are in the habit of playing practical jokes (*des niches*) on one another, it is not uncommon on the morning of the ride to find one's horse with all tail hairs pulled out or some other sort of mischief.

After settling upon a plan for the next day, riders usually convene informally on the eve of the ride in a local bar for some pre-celebration festivities. For the past several years, Revon Reed has presented an excerpt from a documentary film of a previous Mardi Gras celebration in Fred's Lounge that evening, and most of the men in effect see themselves engaged in the activities that they are so eagerly awaiting the following day. As they watch themselves charging farmhouses on command from the capitaine, dancing wildly, singing, drinking, and chasing chickens, emotions mount until the audience is in a frenzy of anticipation. A festive spirit is maintained throughout the evening with the driving sound of

4. There is, however, an interesting tension between hegging and stealing even today. Riders await permission to approach a house, then charge it as though taking it by storm. They then sing and dance for an offering, then chase the chicken down as though stealing it. Riders play out changing roles from beggar to outlaw, singing and dancing while intimidating non-participants.

5. There are now a few *courirs* for women only, such as in Petit Memou, near Basile, in Evangeline Parish. Mixture of both sexes is very rare, however. The "males only" restriction in the Memou Mardi Gras was ironically imposed by the women of the community to reduce the possibility of anonymous crouching. Among the Mamou Mardi Gras riders, there exist the same sorts of sexual freedoms that one encounters in other exclusively male groups such as sports teams. For this occasion, men do not mind dancing together and walking arm in arm. In fact, a popular costume motif involves the reversal of sexual identity by wearing wigs, dresses and even false hooves.





Excited horses and eager riders with co-capitaines await, in complete silence, the dropping of the white flag by the Capitaine, the signal that the householder has granted permission for the riders to enter the premises.



Masked celebrants, after much revelry and mock terrorism, scramble to capture the Mardi Gras offering, a live chicken, thrown high into the air by the men of the house. Once nehhad, the chicken is turned over to the co-capitaine who will bring it into town to become part of the ceremoniel gumbo.

Cajun music played spontaneously by a number of local musicians. What happens, then, resembles closely the ancient tradition of telling war stories to rally the troops the night before a battle.

At dawn the next morning, riders don their costumes and masks, saddle their horses and start down the country roads and back streets to join their fellows. Arriving at the appointed gathering place, the local American Legion Hall, the brilliantly arrayed riders mill around, usually somewhat slowly because of the revelry of the previous evening. Most riders know one another, but, for a while at least, they recognize few. As time passes the area is filled with rowdy, masked horsemen. At a certain point the capitaine, an unmasked rider with a cowboy hat and a long, purple and yellow cape, (6) requests that the riders gather inside the hall for the reading of the rules. From the time he takes command of the celebration at the reading of the rules to the restrained and orderly re-entry into town later in the day, the capitaine's reign is absolute. This is a result of a tacit agreement among all riders who play the game. For an entire day a considerable number of adult males willingly suspend reality for the sake of a ritual celebration, the very nature of which demands unquestioning submission to the authority of a chosen leader whose role is to act as intermediary between the madness of the procession and the outside world.

At the end of the English translation of the rules, the riders file through the only unlocked door, all riders being genuinely frisked to enforce the no-weapons rule. The procession then leaves town to the tune of the Mardi Gras song and proceeds under the strict leadership of the capitaine and his assistants on a predetermined and secret route.

As the procession approaches the first house, the tension of the previous evening begins to mount in anticipation of the traditional charge. The capitaine halts the band of riders on the road and rides ahead alone with a raised white flag to ask the residents' permission to enter, according to custom. If permission is granted, he drops his flag to signal the invitation to charge the house.

Surrounding the front of the yard, the riders dismount and begin dancing to the Mardi Gras song coming from the musicians' wagon which accompanies the ride. (7) Some of the more daring riders might playfully snatch up the lady of the house and/or her daughters and dance with them in the crowd. Children are often the object of some mock terrorism by the masked celebrants. After an appropriate amount of revelry, the man of the house brings out an offering for the Mardi Gras. Ideally, it is a live chicken which he throws high into the air. Those closest to it chase it down and the captor jubilantly holds up his prize for all to see before surrendering it to one of the co-capitaines. After a bit more dancing and socializing, the capitaine blows his cow horn to call the riders to order and the procession moves on.

At irregular intervals between houses, the capitaine calls a halt to the procession for a beer stop. A pickup truck loaded with beer parks in the middle of the road and the riders file by to receive their ration of beer under the scrutiny of the co-capitaines. Sometimes during these

6. The Capitaine and his assistants remain unmasked to avoid any semblance of threat or intimidation. They alone are allowed to wear capes which further distinguish them as escorts for the procession.

7. Previously, all riders were required to know the Mardi Gras song and would sing it themselves during the courir. In recent years, however, the tradition has faded somewhat. During the 1980 run, the most popular song among the riders was "Family Tradition," a current country-western hit by Hank Williams, Jr.

beer stops, a rider wanders out in front of the group past the capitaine only to be briskly reminded of the rule requiring all riders to stay behind the capitaine at all times. Errors are corrected sheepishly; no one challenges the authority of the capitaine.

While the riders show complete respect for the capitaine, they show considerably less for everyone else. There are always countless photographers, ethnographers, and other such "foreigners" accompanying the ride and, often enough, an over-zealous newsmen will get in the way of a group of riders. Patience with this interference soon wears thin and more than one photographer has found himself surrounded by taunting riders, pushed into a roadside ditch or even stung by the flick of a riding crop. Ordinarily, the capitaine deftly disregards these activities, having given stern warning to those accompanying the ride to stay out of the way. (8)

Invariably, horses and riders are weary and ragged as they approach the edge of town at the end of the long ride in mid-afternoon. The capitaine orders a stop just inside the city limits for the riders to regroup and regain a certain composure for the grand, triumphant re-entry into town. Riders present themselves as surviving warriors to those townsfolk who did not participate in the ordeal. With a strong sense of brotherhood based on their shared experiences, they parade down the length of the crowded main street in haughty silence, once again to the tune of the Mardi Gras song, deigning now and then to wave to spectators along the way. Finally, a local group begins playing Cajun music from a streetside bandstand. The atmosphere of the re-entry dissipates rather quickly as the riders join the street dancing and are officially allowed to unmask for the first time since dawn. (9) Most riders retire to a quiet spot nearby to await supper, the ceremonial gumbo, made with chickens caught along the way. (10) After eating, riders usually return home to rest. The hardier souls return for the *bal masqué* marking the last hours of this final fling of revelry before the beginning of Lent the next day on Ash Wednesday.

8. A disappointing trend toward becoming a media event is undeniable in some of the recent celebrations. On the Church Point run of 1979, an ABC television crew filming a segment for the program 20/20 succumbed in having a charge repeated because they missed it the first time. Ironically, the piece was called, "The Mardi Gras They Couldn't Stop," planned to contest the country Mardi Gras with the New Orleans carnival which was threatened by a city strike.

9. For most riders, it is not the first time, however. Habit and convenience in drinking beer almost always force temporary unmaskings along the way.

10. Nowadays, the gumbo is begun in advance with chickens purchased at the market in order to satisfy the demands of the growing multitudes of visitors to the area. Additionally, the riders no longer actually gather enough chickens for the communal gumbo. In fact, on the 1979 Mamou run, Capitaine Jasper Manual elected to pass up about a half dozen houses with their occupants holding chickens outside in order to arrive in town by three o'clock.

# ACADIAN FOLK SONG

Contributed by Viola LeFosse and Submitted by Irene W. Holmes

In the last half of the nineteenth century in Southwest Louisiana at a little place familiarly called l'Anse Couche-Couche, now called Mermentau Cove, Mrs. Emily Benoit Istre sang the song presented here and taught it to her daughter who was born in 1892. The daughter, now Mrs. Euclide LeFosse, in turn sang it to her daughter, Virole. Because Virole enjoys singing the song, she offers it to other lovers of traditional French songs.

While a folk song usually centers around one idea, the lyrics of this song begin with beauty reminiscent of French Romanticism and end with a spark of wit frequently found among Acadians in Louisiana. The anonymous little musical gem is probably liked for its spontaneity.

Si j'au - rais donc des ailes comme

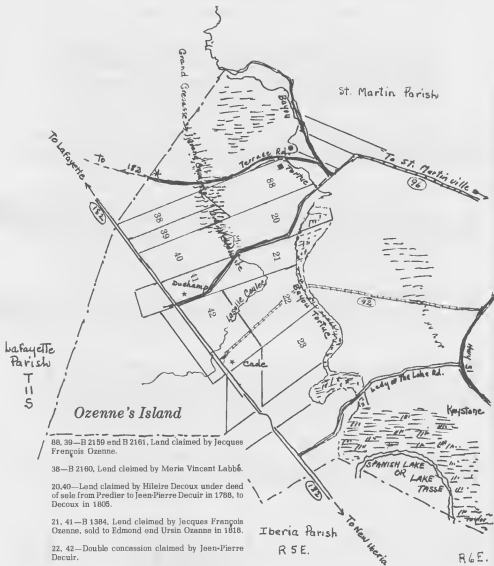
toutes les hi - ron - delles, au - près de toi, la

belle, j'i - rais ma re - po - ser.

Il y en a qui oiment le blonde, il y en a qui

oiment la brune; Mais moi, j'suis pas comme

ca, j'les ai me toutes les deux.



■ —House built by David Sendox

● —Site of Sendog's sugar mill

# THE LEGACY OF OZENNE'S ISLAND

By Gertrude C. Taylor

The study of a landmark inevitably leads to the study of the lands and of the course of the lives and the affairs of the people who have occupied the lands. This study involves two elements: history, a fascination; and genealogy, a challenge. The recording of these two elements can be termed the fulfillment. Thus is the fulfillment in this documented account of a landmark which through the years has been referred to by several names, about which people have wondered and sometimes recounted legends, and which heretofore has gone unaccounted for by historians, by genealogists, and by writers.

This landmark, variously called the Ozenne House, the Fuselier House, or the Duchamp House stands high on a hill overlooking Bayou Tortue (1) at a point where Highway 96 crosses that bayou on its way from St. Martinville to Highway 182. (2) Actually, this house should be called the Sandoz House, for David Sandoz was its builder. But the other names, so intricately interwoven in the history of the house and the lands around it, are firmly imprinted in five generations of that history.

Records of this landmark begin in 1781, with the possession and settlement of the land upon which it stands by Jacques François Ozenne. (3) At the time Ozenne, a native of New Orleans and a resident of Pointe Coupée, (4) was a familiar figure in the Attakapas, since in 1773 he contracted to provide timber for building the first Attakapas church, such timber

\*Part of the research for this article was contributed by Jane Guillory Bulliard.

1. The hill, with Bayou Tortue on one side and lowlands on the other, is said to be 45 feet above sea level. Once called "Ozenne's Island," it is one of a series of formations of sandy, red soil, probably deposited centuries ago by floodwaters rushing through what early settlers called the "Grande Crevasse." In later land transactions it is called Beauvais Coulee. The entire area is known as "Cote Gelee." (According to land descriptions, the Grande Crevasse is now called Cypress Bayou.)

2. In early times the Terrace Road did not exist even as a trail. Antoine Ozenne, great, great grandson of Jacques François Ozenne, recounts some of his ancestors' stories of how they had to follow trails over the high lands on their way to St. Martinville in the early 1800s. Interview with Antoine Ozenne, Aug. 12, 1980. Ozenne lives within earshot of the old Sandoz house and next to the site of the Sandoz sugar mill. There is also evidence that the Terrace Road was part of the stage route to Vermilionville in the mid-1800s. Its improvement as a graveled road connected to Highway 182 and then as a blacktop road can be considered fairly recent.

3. By Certificate B-2159, dated Feb. 20, 1813, Jacques François Ozenne acquired title to a tract 15 arpents wide bounded above by Bayou Tortue and below by the Grande Crevasse (the customary 40 arpents depth), founded on possession from January 29, 1781, as appears in the deed of conveyance from Widow Deuterius, dated March 11, 1786, and on cultivation and settlement from October 1, 1800, to November 20, 1803. A second claim, B-1364, for 11 arpents front on Bayou Tortue below the first claim was based on occupancy since 1786. Louisiana Register of State Land Claims.

Indications are that Ozenne claimed possession of the lands but did not occupy them until some time later, probably not bringing his family into the area until after 1800.

4. In 1728 Jacques Ozenne, a native of St. Ines, Normandy, was employed by the Company of the Indies as a cooper. Glenn R. Conrad, comp., *The First Families of Louisiana*, 2 vols. (Baton Rouge, La., 1970), I, 229. He was the son of Jacques Ozenne and Marie Demoulin of St. Ines, Normandy. November 10, 1729, he married Charlotte Julie Moreau in St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans. Information furnished by Jacqueline O. Vidrine. Jacques François was born in 1740. He married Marguerite Decuir in Pointe Coupée in 1786. Bill Berron, ed., *Census of Pointe Coupée in Louisiana, 1745* (Baton Rouge, La., 1978), p. 81.

to be cut and brought down to the post from Pointe Coupée. (5) Just how active Ozenne was in the settlement of his land claims is unclear, since few of his transactions appear in the St. Martin Parish court records before 1800. (6) Moreover, all his children seem to have grown up and married in Pointe Coupée except Edmond, who remained unmarried, and Ursin, obviously the youngest son, who did not marry until 1828, and even then returned to Pointe Coupée to claim his bride. (7) Ozenne's daughter, Claire, married Marie Vincent Labbé of Pointe Coupée in 1806. Shortly thereafter, they seem to have settled in the same area as her father. (8)

Marguerite Decuir Ozenne died August 28, 1815, at age sixty, leaving all her assets to her husband who was, in turn, to pass them on to their surviving children. (9) About the same time, perhaps because he felt his life ebbing, Ozenne conveyed to his two sons, Edmond and Ursin, the twelve-arpent tract of land fronting Bayou Tortue (sections 21 and 41) "in consideration of a debt he owed to them." (10) In 1817 Ozenne sold to Antoine Beauvais, another son-in-law, the original fifteen arpent tract on Bayou Tortue (sec. 88), apparently bringing more of his family into the fold. (11) The next year he cancelled the obligations in the sales of properties to his two sons-in-law. (12)

5. From the history of the church in St. Martinville. In early 1774, Jacques François Ozenna wrote Gehriès Fusselier de la Claire, commandant of the post, complaining that the residents were not paying: "I beg of you to ask the governor to see that it [the debt] is paid, for the residents have refused to pay not only for the wood but also for my trip to the Attakapas." St. Martin Parish Conveyances, Bk. 1-e, No. 15. On May 1, 1774, Fusselier de la Claire forwarded the request to the governor.

6. A general census of the owners of immovable property, their slaves, and their assessments on the west bank of Bayou Tortue in 1808 lists family holdings as follows: Ozenna (père), no slaves 12 arpents (sec. 21 and 41); Ursin, 1 slave, 0 arpents; Ozanna (fils), 2 slaves, 0 arpents; Edmond, 1 slave, 0 arpents; Ozanna (père), 14 slaves, 15 arpents (sec. 88); M. V. Labbé, 4 slaves, one-half arpent. Mary Elizabeth Senders, *Records of the Attakapas District, Vol. III: St. Martin Parish, 1808-1860* (Privately printed, 1974).

7. Ursin's marriage to Julia Picard is recorded in St. Martin of Tours Church. Donald J. Hébert, comp., *Southwest Louisiana Records, 19 vols.* (Privately printed, 1974-1979), II, 702.

8. *Ibid.*, p. 240. Marie Vincent Labbé was certified in his claim to 7.5 arpents front by 40 arpents depth (sec. 38) behind his father-in-law's claim (sec. 88) in 1813. In 1807 Jacques François Ozenna conveyed to his son-in-law the adjoining tract (sec. 39), which he had purchased from DeGruiasse and wife. *Louisiane Register of State Land Claims, DeGruiasse's wife was the widow of Bernard Deutavine.*

9. St. Martin Parish Successions, No. 292.

10. St. Martin Parish Conveyances, Book 1-e, No. 2687.

11. Antoine Beauvais of Fausse Rivière married Maria Menon Ozanna in Pointe Coupée in 1797. She is listed as the daughter of Jacques François Ozenna of Attakapas. Her groom was the son of Antoine St. James-Beauvais of Illinois and Marie Riché. Vaneta DeGraffanried Morrison, comp., *Index, Early Marriages of Pointe Coupée, 1771-1843* (Privately printed, n.d.). As in the case of Menon's sister who married Jean-Baptist Beauvais of the Parish of St. Genevieve in 1793 [Winston Deville, comp., *Colonial Marriages Contracts, Vol. III: Pointe Coupée, 1763-1803* (Baton Rouge, La., 1962)], the parents of the bride were not present at the wedding. Suzanne and her husband settled on the west side of Bayou Tortue in the same area as her parents.

In the conveyance to Antoine Beauvais, Ozanna reserves a room for himself in the dwelling house on the property. St. Martin Parish Conveyance No. 3170.

12. St. Martin Parish Conveyances Nos. 3478 and 3477.

LEGACY OF  
OZENNE'S ISLAND



An ancient sweet olive tree draped with moss guards the west side of the house David Sendox, grandson-in-law of Jacques François Ozenne, built after 1851. Westward from Ozenne's Island, the land claimed by Jacques François Ozenne in the late 1700s. Highway 96 cuts the view of the lowlands that roll to the Grande Crevasse.

Amélie Sendox, in a copy of an old tintype now in the possession of Antoine Ozenne, her grandson, married Eugène Duchamp in 1860. After her mother's death in 1878, Amélie inherited Providence Plantation and the old house atop Ozenne's Island.





The old house is an enigma of contradictions, the hand-hewn timbers by the side of handsomely molded baseboards and paneled doors. Ground floors of the front and back galleries are paved with limestone. Stairs to the upper front gallery (above, left) are a later addition. Original stairs were at the back of the wide center hall, accessible from the center door of the rear gallery. The first floor of the house, at ground level in front, sinks thirty inches into the hill at the rear (above, right).

Opposite, above left is Eugene Duchamp with one of his daughters. The tomb David Sandoz built for his wife, Claire Christina Labbé, (right) is unique in design. The curving brick of the four columns are said to have been molded on the plantation. The story is told that Sandoz, a Protestant, built the tomb on the Catholic side of St. Martin Cemetery to "return his wife to the religion from which he had taken her."



Tall young cypresses replace those used up by the early settlers along the now lily-choked Bayou Tortue. The site is near the old Sendor sugarmill location.



With an ancient broedex Antoine Ozanne, grandson of Amélie Sendor and Eugène Duchamp and fifth generation descendant of Jacques François Ozanne, demonstrates the equally ancient art of hewing a cypress log into building timber.

Jacques François Ozenne died September 7, 1819. The St. Martin Parish pioneer was seventy-nine years old, of his children only his daughter, Claire, having a longer life span. He left his heirs with property which they, their children, and their grandchildren could occupy and cultivate. (13) In the years that followed, his grandchildren married the grandchildren of Gabriel Fuselier de la Claire, the commandant when Ozenne first came to the Attakapas, and their children married their cousins until they formed a complex network of familial relationships. (14)

January 7, 1851, Julie Désirée Beauvais Gradenigo, Jacques François Ozenne's granddaughter (C-1 and C-6) and granddaughter-in-law of Gabriel Fuselier, sold to her husband's brother-in-law, Alphonse Alcide Fuselier (C-2), also the grandson of Gabriel Fuselier, the tract of land she had inherited from her father (B-5) and from her grandfather (A-3). (15) Two weeks later Alcide Fuselier sold the west half of the same property to David François Sandoz II, stating in the act of sale that the property was *vendus nue*. (16)

Sandoz built his house some time after January 28, 1851. (17) He and his wife were parents of six children, only one of whom survived them. (18) David Sandoz died in 1878 and his wife, one year later. Marie Amélie, their second child and only heir, then, inherited

13. Last will and testament of Jacques François Ozenne, April 10, 1819. St. Martin Parish Successions, No. 327.

14. See Family Chart.

15. St. Martin Parish Conveyances, Book 20, No. 12247. This sale was for the tract of land 15 arpents wide, 40 arpents deep, designated section 88.

16. *Ibid.*, No. 12272.

David François Sandoz, born in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, was the son of David Sandoz, Sr. and Merienne Meuley. The couple came to America from Switzerland. The gravestone in St. Martin Catholic Cemetery shows that she was born October 11, 1779, and died March 14, 1864. Her husband died about 1833.

David Sandoz II married Claire Christine Labbé (C-5) July 10, 1833. She was a first cousin of Julie Désirée Beauvais and a granddaughter of Jacques François Ozenne.

The fact that there was nothing on the property at the time of the sale leads to the conclusion that Sandoz built the house sometime after 1851. He, himself, was a builder, credited with the construction of several buildings on Main Street in St. Martinville. Just when he started work on this house and when he completed it is undetermined; however, Antoine Ozenne recalls that his grandmother, the daughter of David Sandoz had told how builders worked to install windows in the face of an approaching storm. Interview with Antoine Ozenne.

This storm could have been the great hurricane of 1856, usually called the Last Island Storm, which was strongly felt in the area.

The house in which Jacques François Ozenne reserved a room for himself (See above, footnote No. 11) must have been located on the half of the property that Alcide Fuselier did not sell to David Sandoz.

17. Construction details of the house show the use of hand-hewn timbers as well as those cut by circular and pit saws, and *briquelette* entre poteau along with bousillage. Antoine Ozenne credits slave labor for the variation in building detail, using the information handed down by his grandmother, Amélie Sandoz. Interview with Antoine Ozenne.

18. David Sandoz married Claire Christine Labbé, daughter of Claire Ozenne and Meris Vincent Labbé and granddaughter of Jacques François Ozenne. Four of their six children died at an early age. A fifth, David Charles, died in the Civil War. Marie Amélie, born August 4, 1842, was their only heir. Her husband was the son of Jean-Baptiste Eugène Duchamp de Chastaigné and Marie Louise Euphémie Sophie Mérope Martin de la Martinère of Martinique. The family came to the St. Martinville area from Morris County, New Jersey. Three of their fourteen children married two Ozennes and a Fuselier (See E-1, D-2, and D-3), and two more children married Duchamp.

the property her father and mother had amassed along with the big house on the hill and the sugar mill, all of which they had named Providence Plantation. (19) Marie Amélie had married Eugène Auguste Duchamp September 20, 1860, and they lived on the plantation until 1874, when they built a townhouse in St. Martinville. (20)

In 1904, six years after her husband's death, Amélie Sandoz Duchamp sold Providence Plantation to the Billeaud family, (21) leaving some of the children and grandchildren on either side of the place where their great grandparents had settled some one hundred-twenty years before. (22)

In 1951, when the W.B. Vennard heirs and the Richard D. Chappuis family acquired the old house and its surroundings, they renamed the place "Belle Chérie." Presently the owners are making plans to repair and renovate the old house from which the years have taken their toll, and to make it liveable again. To bring life back to this landmark is all that is needed; the beauty and charm which have always been there will emerge in a fanciful picture of bygone days—the story of a man who envisioned his future and the futures of his children, his grandchildren, and his great grandchildren in the lush and rolling countryside of Côte Gelée.

19. The first mention of Providence Plantation is contained in the act of sale from Amélie Sandoz Duchamp to the Billeaud family in 1904. St. Martin Conveyances, Book 81, folio 416.

20. The old postoffice building, now the property of the town of St. Martinville, was once the Duchamp town house. This handsome structure, built about 20 years after the house in the country, offers a sharp contrast in style and detail. It is said that after Duchamp's death in 1877, Amélie returned to the country to live again in the old plantation house.

21. St. Martin Parish Conveyances, Book 81, folio 413.

22. The act of donation from Mr. and Mrs. Nickerson to their children describes this tract of land with all buildings and improvements as 7.5 arpents wide and 40 arpents deep, containing 300 superficial arpents, bounded north by David Sandoz or assigns (this includes the Ozennes), south by the estate of Gebriel Fuselier and west by Lebbe or assigns. Lafayette Parish Donations Book 138, p. 227.



A.  
1. Gabriel Fuselier de la Claire  
b. ca. 1822, Lyon  
d. 1800  
m. 1st. 1764  
Jeanne Roman

m. 2nd. Hélène Soileau  
April 30, 1771

(Dau. Noël and Marie Soileau)  
b. ca. 1754  
d. Feb. 16, 1816

2. Etienne Ternant  
of Pointe Coupée  
  
Constance Lacour

3. Jacques François Ozenne  
b. New Orleans, 1740  
d. St. Martin Parish  
Sept. 19, 1819  
  
m. July 15, 1766

Marguerite Decuir  
(Dau. Jean François Decuir  
of Troyes, France and  
Genevieve Mayeau)  
b. Pointe Coupée  
d. Aug. 28, 1815  
St. Martin Parish

B.  
1. Emélie Aurore Fuselier  
  
m. Feb. 10, 1810  
Hélène Gradenigo  
(Jean Gradenigo + Marguerite Kely)  
b. 1784

2. Gabriel Fuselier  
b. 1774  
d. 1820

m. May 8, 1799  
St. Ann's, Morganza

Bazilio Ternant  
d. 1830

3. Simon David, Jr.  
of Point Coupée  
m. 1st. ↓  
Julie Picard  
m. 2nd. ↑ d. 1882  
Ursin Ozenne  
d. 1859

4. Ann Claire Ozenne  
b. 1780 - d. Oct. 18, 1864  
  
m. 1806  
Marie Vincent Labbé  
of Pointe Coupée  
d. 1819

5. Marie Manon Ozenne  
b. 1775 - d. 1850  
m. July 27, 1797  
  
Antoine Beauvais  
of Fausse Rivière

C.  
1. Hélène Gradenigo, Jr.  
b. 1811 d. 1880  
m. Julie Desirée Beauvais  
Feb. 25, 1840

2. Augustine Gradenigo  
b. March 23, 1817  
d. Oct. 3, 1855  
m. Nov. 17, 1834  
Araide Fuselier  
b. 1811

3. Gabriel Fuselier  
b. 1806 d. 1832  
m. Josephine Halphen  
of Pointe Coupée  
b. 1812 d. 1830

4. Ludger Adolphe fuselier  
b. 1811 d. 1837  
m. Aug 25, 1821  
Mélanie David  
of Point Coupée

5. Jacques François Ozenne  
b. 1829  
  
m. June 2, 1857

Lodoiska Wilts

6. Claire Christine Labbé  
b. Oct. 27, 1808 d. Aug. 1878  
m. July 10, 1833

David François Sandoz  
b. April 4, 1802 d. Dec. 1877

7. Julie Desirée Beauvais  
(Same as C-1)  
m. Feb. 25, 1840  
Hélène Gradenigo  
b. 1811 d. ca. 1880

# The Legacy of Gabriel Fuselier de la Claire and Jacques François Ozenne

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NOTE: Because of lack of space, not all children in each family group represented on this chart are listed. Only those illustrative of the intermarriages or connected with the story are named.

D.

1. Gabriel Fuselier  
b. 1829-30?  
d. July 17, 1869

m. Jan. 23, 1849

Baselie Fuselier  
b. June 1, 1832

E.

1. Arthur Joseph Ozenne  
b. April 16, 1859 d. 1929  
m. April 15, 1887  
Amélie Eugénie Duchamp

F.

1. Antoine Ozenne  
b. 1909  
m. 1941  
Genevieve Trosclair  
b. 1920

2. Amélie Sandoz  
b. Aug. 4, 1842  
d. May 13, 1913

m. Sept. 20, 1860

2. Marie Rose Ozenne  
b. March 12, 1866  
m. Sept. 25, 1895  
Eugène David Duchamp  
b. April 16, 1866

3. Rodolph Fuselier  
b. ca. 1865  
m. Jan. 27, 1890  
Adrienne Marie Duchamp  
b. Aug. 10, 1869

Eugène A. Duchamp  
b. July 5, 1837 d. Sept. 6, 1898

# THE BIENVENU FAMILY OF ST. MARTINVILLE

Willie Z. Bienvenu, M.D.

(Continued from Vol. XV, No. 3)

## DESCENDANTS OF PIERRE TERVILLE BIENVENU (cont'd)

- I. *Félicité* Anesido, married Hypolite Numa Bienvenu, born 1824, son of François Théodule Bienvenu and Celeste de Fontenette.
  1. Joseph Erasma, born June 13, 1847, died September 5, 1848
  2. Stanislas Numa, born July 1849, died February 7, 1862, age 13 years
  3. Marie Darcienne, born February 4, 1855
  4. Paul Jean Hypolite, born September 11, 1858, married April 3, 1877, Elémore Bealin
    1. Marie Inez, born September 9, 1878
    2. Louis Joseph Alexis, born August 30, 1880
    3. Marie Aline, born February 14, 1883
    4. Marie Sophie Louise, born September 17, 1886
  5. Geneviève Darcienne, born January 8, 1859, married June 18, 1874, Edwin Guérinière Bienvenu, son of Charles Guérinière Bienvenu
    1. Adrienne, (baptised Marie Joséphine), born March 2, 1878
    2. Joseph Charles Numa, born December 27, 1878
    3. Joseph Edwin, born February 28, 1880
    4. James
    5. Darcienne
    6. Louis Loizaire, born, September 27, 1880, died December 31, 1881
- J. Mortiel, born 1836, died November 29, 1906, age 70 years, married April 5, 1853, Elodie Broussard, born August 24, 1838, died June 25, 1899. Fifteen children:
  1. Pierre Terville, born June 29, 1854, married 1st December 28, 1874, Cécile Bertrend, daughter of Eugène Bertrend and Ernestine Berres
    1. Lucy, married 1st Félix Barrea; 2nd Edward Bernard
    2. Cécile, married George Gary
  - Pierre Terville married 2nd Amy d'Abedie
  3. Elmo, married Stéphanie Lahbe
    1. Claire, married J. J. Bealin
  4. Spencer
    1. Spencer, Jr.
    2. Brien
  5. Verna (Sister Mary Austin, R.S.M.)
  6. Evelyn, married William Wetzel
    1. Verna Men, married (?) Arthur
    2. William, Jr.
    3. Rodney married Emmeline Durend
    4. Raymond
  7. Myrtle, married Arthur Lohbe
2. Paul Albert, born July 29, 1858, married 1st October 14, 1878, Emma Eestin, daughter of Judge Richard T. Eestin, born July 14, 1849, and Octavia Fontenette, born 1848.
  1. Louise Françoise, born December 25, 1887, married Wede Burdin, Sr.
  2. Octavia, married D. Blanc
  3. Wesley C., married Henriette Duhon
    1. Wesley, Jr.
    2. Lillian, married (?) Nelson
    3. Mary Louise, married Dan Bernard
    4. George, married Daisy Fournet
      1. Patrick
      2. (?), married Gaston Horellet, Jr.
  5. Paul Albert, born January 15, 1883, married Laurence Soulier
    1. P. Albert, Jr. ("Brother"), married Carolyn Bernedes
    2. Harold G., born March 22, 1906, married Margaret Hunter, born March 14, 1911
      1. Harold G., Jr., born July 28, 1933, married Sylvie Segure
      2. John Hunter, born January 13, 1937, married Vilma Sanchez
      3. Catherine, born March 18, 1945, married Roy Edmonds
    3. Emmet (Jesuit Priest)
  4. Medeline, married John G. Schloegel
  5. Juenite, married Jackson G. Riceu

8. Francis, married Effie Delaloire
  1. Francis, Jr., married Doris Duhon
  2. John O., married Dorothy MacEachron
  3. Malcolm, married Elsie Thibaux
  4. Stephanie, married Floyd Darouen
7. Nita Mae, born March 24, 1890, died March 1, 1968, married Joseph Hypolite Duchamp de Chastaigne, born July 22, 1886, died January 4, 1946
  1. Henry, born October 12, 1911, married 1st Virginia Simms, married 2nd Hazel Sockrider
  2. Pauline Marie, born August 9, 1914, married Owen Rasweber
  3. Emily Joseph, born June 3, 1916, married Melba Durand
  4. Marcel Joseph, born May 2, 1918, married Phyllis Fournet
  5. Daniel Joseph, born June 2, 1920, married Verna [-?]
  6. Rita Emma, born September 28, 1921, married Todd Wisdom
  7. Nita Mae, born September 23, 1925, married Jannings Smith
  8. Elise Claire, born January 26, 1928, married Roland Gaudin
  9. Doris, born August 7, 1929, married Dalton Prados
  10. Kenneth, born November 10, 1935
- Paul Albert married 2nd Marie Peck, widow Boulet
  8. Robert G., married Henriette Bourgas, born April 21, 1915
  9. Gerard, born November 9, 1919, married Nancy Walch
  10. Lucille, born December 24, 1920, married 1st Seth Brown; married 2nd Judge James D. Simon
3. Blanche, born January 27, 1858, married February 24, 1881, Louis Voorhies, no children
4. Maria Amelia, born July 28, 1861, married July 14, 1884, George Martin Voorhies
  1. Maria Alice, married Lucian Leon Jarreau
    1. Marcalle Marie, born March 17, 1914
    2. Martin Voorhies, born August 8, 1915
  2. Mitchell
  3. Louis
  4. Henry
  5. Elodia
5. Rosa Victoria, born December 10, 1863, died October 18, 1864
6. Joseph Clairville ("Bébé"), born July 12, 1887, married Estelle Bourdier
  1. Lee
    1. Raymond L., married Carolyn Bullard
    2. Estelle, married Robert Labbé
  2. James, married Isabelle Knight
    1. Martha, married Gordon Brown
  3. Alpha, married Theresa Olivier
    1. Wayne (twin), born January 12, 1941, married Patsy Comeaux
    2. Rodney (twin), born January 12, 1941, married Garsie Barras
  4. Alina, unmarried
  5. Graca, married John Hamilton
  6. Olga, married Patrick Kelso
  7. Léonia, married Lloyd Boulet
    1. Steve
    2. Lloyd, Jr. (M.D.) "Bucky"
  8. Louise, married Nolan Olivier, no children
7. Charles, born April 2, 1889, died November 1, 1933, married Zoe Barras
  1. Elmira, married Leopold Bealin
    1. Marjorie
    2. Jean, married Pats Potest
  2. Camilla, married Mike Donlon
  3. Martial, married Bessie Labbe
  4. Orlean, married Edgar Halphen
    1. Garakd (M.D.), married Betty Bodin
    2. Michael (M.D.), married Tommy Cook
  5. Charles, Jr., married Thérèse Poulain
    1. Michalis
    2. Annette
    3. Charles, Jr.
  8. Bessie
8. Rosa Bertha, born June 30, 1871, married 1888, L. C. Vautier, no children
9. Epiphane Lelzairre, born January 10, 1874, married Laoncie Tertrou
  1. Louis Lawrance, born April 7, 1899, married Nina Pelierin, no children
  2. Clay Anthony, born October 7, 1900, (Catholic priest)
  3. Inez Marie, born February 15, 1903, married Elmer B. "Jack" Stewmon
    1. Margaret Lee, married Eugana Sikes
  4. Ralph Roch, born July 2, 1905, married Anna Lou Duhon
    1. Barton
    2. Douglas
    3. Laura, married Ronald Evans



5. Mercei Martin, born July 6, 1907, married Rhane Broussard
  1. Henri Cley, born November 21, 1941, married Meria Comeaux
  2. Marcelle Rhene, born February 28, 1945, married Newell Wright
  3. Edne Merie, born December 2, 1948, married Alj. Landry
  4. Bruce Anthony, born April 3, 1952, married Nancy Broussard
6. Genevieve Gertrude, born December 30, 1906, married Howard Durend
  1. Edward, born June 5, 1941, married Rosienne Angelle
  2. Mélenie, born February 6, 1943, married Dr. William Grossman
  3. Paul, born May 25, 1947, married Amy Vellot
7. Marie Thérèse, born February 12, 1912, married Charles Chetelnier
  1. Lorraine, born February 20, 1929, married Thomas E. Loves
  2. Doris, born May 14, 1930, married B. Lee Fournet
  3. Edwine, born October 31, 1931, married Gerald J. Guirerd
  4. Gayle, born November 29, 1933, married William Grey
  5. Cherrisse, born February 27, 1935
  6. Hops, born September 15, 1936, married 1st Willard Lesseigne; married 2nd Michael Denis Gauthier
  7. Marie Thérèse, born September 8, 1940, married Kenneth Perry
  8. Charles (twin), born August 25, 1943, married Cathy Moody
  9. Cley (twin), born August 25, 1943, married Charlotte Bourque
  10. Richard, born August 13, 1946, married Terry Cook
  11. Claudia, born March 17, 1948, married Jack Martin
  12. Carroll, born December 28, 1953, married Jennifer Benoit
  13. Michael, born May 9, 1955, married Cynthia Ardoin
8. Corinna Cecilia, born February 18, 1914, married Bert McCoy
  1. Mergeret, married 1st John Olivier, married 2nd Jerry Olivier
9. Rita Rosa, born October 25, 1915, married Oswald Petout, Jr.
  1. Phillip, married Rose Robertson
  2. Michael, married Lise Victor
  3. John
10. Mergeret Vide, born February 19, 1917, married Alden Laborda
  1. Susan, married Tucker Couvillion
  2. John Peter
  3. Monroe
  4. Stephanie
  5. Jene
11. Annebelle Valentine, born February 14, 1919, unmarried
12. Claudie Hene, born April 25, 1921, married William Brosius
  1. Mergeret, married Charles Petout
  2. Nancy, married Russell Abel
  3. William, Jr.
10. Martial Cerios, born October 1, 1876, died January 22, 1946, married January 16, 1906, Elmire Marie Barres
  1. Lecke Pierre, born October 14, 1906, married Lucille Viole Benites
    1. Pierre Joseph, born August 6, 1931, married Velme Tberiot
    2. Wade Thomas, born July 26, 1906, died January 29, 1973, married January 16, 1936, Helen Marie Lesalle
      1. Richard Thomas, born September 8, 1936, married Roberta Kleus
      2. Elmire Marie, born May 22, 1939, married Owen J. Resweber, Jr.
      3. Stalle Ann, born October 22, 1951
      4. Celeste Marie, born March 29, 1955, married Ronald Blanchard
    3. Frederick Firmin, born September 25, 1911, married Mergeret Fournet
      1. Sylvie, married George "Butch" McHugh
      2. Fredrick, Jr., married Lynwood Welmer
      3. Juliette, married Pierre Rex Landry, Jr.
      4. Don Carlos, born May 23, 1956, died August 10, 1973
      4. Joseph Werd, born June 1914, married 1st Hazel Dessens, died December 26, 1954
  11. Marie Cécile, born February 16, 1877
  12. Lucie Bernedette, born October 11, 1878
  13. Marie Elodie, born November 10, 1879, married Jules Resweber, Jr., born 1877, no children
  14. Marie Mercedes, born May 28, 1882, married Fernand F. Broussard
    1. Laurel, married Jerry Bourque
      - married 2nd July 31, 1959, Eloise Bourgeois, no children
      1. Gereldo
      2. Fernand, Jr.
      3. Elodie, married (?) Lyons
      4. Isabelle, married William Elders
      5. Sophie, married J. Childs
      6. Edith
  15. T. Lucian, married Aurore Deutreuil
    1. Earl, born 1909, married Anne Belle Mercat, born 1913
    2. Ludger, married Grace Durend
    3. Elodie, married William Larson

DESCENDANTS OF  
JOSEPH TERENCE BIENVENU

Joseph T rence Bienvenu, sixth child of Alexandre Devince Bienvenu and Henriette de Letil, was born August 30, 1795, died November 30, 1843, age 48 years, married February 17, 1817, Marie Julie Guilbeau, born September 23, 1798, died May 5, 1840. She was the youngest of 10 children of Fran ois Guilbeau (born 1749 at Port Royal, Acadie, Nova Scotia, son of Joseph Guilbeau dit l'Officier and Megdeleine Michel) and Megdeleine Broussard (daughter of Jean Broussard and Anne LeBlenc, married July 18, 1772). Alexandre Devince, Jr., and Joseph Terence had a contract to build the large Lady of the Lake Plantation home for Jean-Baptiste d'Espequet de Blanc in 1827. Julie and T rence were the parents of eleven children:

A. Alexandrine (Alix), born December 4, 1817, died October 1859, married 1st July 1, 1833, Clairville Broussard, son of Pierre Broussard, Jr., born June 15, 1777, and Scholeistique Broussard, married ca. 1800.

1. Elodie, born August 24, 1838, died June 25, 1899, married April 5, 1853, Merti l Bienvenu, son of Pierre Terville Bienvenu and Sophie de Kerlegend

1. Pierre Terville, born June 29, 1854, married Cecile Bertrand

2. Paul Albert, born July 29, 1856, married Emma Eestin

3. Blanche, born January 27, 1858, married Louis Voorhies

4. Marie Am lie, born July 28, 1861, married Martin Voorhies

5. Rose Victorie, born February 10, 1863, died October 18, 1864

6. J. Clairville, born July 12, 1867

7. Charles, born April 2, 1869, married Zoe Berres

8. Rose Berthe, born June 30, 1871, married L. C. Veuthier

9. Epiphane Lalzair, born January 10, 1874, married Leoncie Tertrou

10. Carlos Martiel, born October 1, 1878

11. Marie C cilia, born February 16, 1877

12. Lucie Bernadette, born October 11, 1878

13. Marie Elodie, born November 10, 1879, married Jules Resweber

14. Marie Mercedes, born May 28, 1882, married (?) Broussard

15. T. Lucien, married Aurore Deutrouil

2. Th odore Leizeira, born 1842, married August 7, 1867, Blanche Alice Bienvenu, born 1847, daughter of Charles Guerin re Bienvenu and Hersilie de la Housseye

1. Gu rini re, born 1868

2. Blanche, born 1870

3. Inez, born 1873

4. Walter, born 1878

5. Marie Corinne, born February 17, 1849

6. Julie Alice Clairville, born June 14, 1851

7. St ph nie Louise, born August 3, 1853

8. Euseide Cecile, married November 10, 1859, Nicolas Ratier

9. Felicite Louise, married July 11, 1850, L opold Bealin, son of Alexandre Bealin and Delphine Leleu

1. Marie Core, born May 14, 1851, married April 22, 1873, Louis Tertrou

2. Louis Ernest, born December 8, 1852, married September 15, 1890, Rose Thomas

1. Edith, married Emile Berres

1. Mitchell

2. Michael (Priest)

3. Alexandre Gabriel, born April 20, 1857

4. Th odore Leopold, born April 8, 1860

5. Louis Sidney, born January 23, 1874

8. Berthe, born November 8, 1855

B. Marie An is, born July 2, 1820, died October 15, 1828, age 8 years

C. Thomas Roph el, born December 19, 1821

D. Joseph T rence, born 1823, died 1844, age 21 years

E. Martin, born November 9, 1823

F. Martin Alphonse, born 1824, married July 10, 1847, Marie Antonie Angeline Bienvenu, born November 2, 1828, died September 22, 1890, daughter of Fran ois Th odule Bienvenu and Marie Genevi ve C leste de Fontenette.

1. Martin F lix, born May 28, 1848, unmarried

2. Joseph Enoud, born April 1850, died October 28, 1851

3. Louis Gilbert, born July 17, 1852, married February 14, 1878, Felicienne LeBlenc of Youngsville

1. Louis Alfred, born November 17, 1879

2. Joseph Alphonse, born January 3, 1882

3. Robert, born February 20, 1888

4. Louis Gilbert, born December 19, 1894, died 1962, married 1st (?) Bebin

1. Loris, married B. Renard

2. Doris, married Gladys Bourque

Louis Gilbert married 2nd Nodlase Romero

3. Willis, married Charlene Dimmick of New York

4. Willis, married Wilson Romero of New Iberia

5. Hazel, married Willis Guilbaux

6. Una Maa, married Percy Hoffpauir

7. Dorothy Maa, married Preston Martin, Jr., of Franklin

8. Will, died in childhood

9. Wiltz, born January 1, 1940, married Paarl Champagne

10. Shirley, married James Dupuis of New Iberia

5. "Girl"

1. Rana, married (?) Savoy

4. Gabriel Edmond, born July 14, 1854

5. Marie Angelle, born August 14, 1856, married February 26, 1878, Louis-Benjamin "Uncle Ben"

Durand, born 1853

1. Joseph Walter, born February 7, 1879

2. Michel Etienne, born September 20, 1880

3. Frédéric Xavier, born March 1883

8. Joseph Reoul, born March 4, 1883, married February 3, 1883, Marie Gabrielle Retier. He served for many years as Deputy Sheriff of Saint Martin Parish.

1. Bernadette, unmarried

2. Sidney

3. Helen, born 1891, married John Holland

4. Angeline, died in infancy

5. Caméole, born 1893, married Henry Lanoux

8. Félix

7. Roger, married Anne Guidry, born 1913

G. Joseph Edouard Alcide, born July 1828, died September 3, 1827

H. François, died March 9, 1829, age 9 months

I. Louis Sévigné, born August 25, 1832, died October 14, 1867, married August 21, 1855, Cécila

Nathalia Judica, born 1838, daughter of Antoine Théodule Judica and Amélie LaBetha.

1. Marie Amelia, born 1857, married May 11, 1875, Maurice René Durand, born 1855

1. Marie Cécila Josephine, married (?) Dairon

2. Marie Amalia, married James Halphen

3. Marie Agnes Laurance, married Charles Caserta

4. Marie Antoinette Carman, married Ishmael Halphen

1. Myrtis, married Leo Duhon

2. Durand, married Curtis Fournat

3. Owan

4. Ishmeel

5. Robert

5. Marie Blanche

6. Joseph Maurice

7. René Joseph

8. Lucy, married Jennings Fournet

1. Jean, married Robert Segure

2. Roberto, married Ceryle Resweber

3. Jennings, Jr., married Patricia Soileau

4. Jean, married Wilfred "Sonny" Romaro

2. Louis Jean, born October 29, 1859, married September 1, 1880, Marguerite Eulalie Hanes

1. Joseph, born September 23, 1881, died October 27, 1944, married Dorciana Blanc, born May 17, 1855, died January 15, 1973, daughter of Alex D. Blanc

3. Marie Noémie, born September 15, 1882, married September 21, 1882, Joseph Lorian Kellar

1. Marie Pauline, married Joseph Furgeant

2. Noémie

3. Etienne Felix

4. Louis Jennings

5. Antoine

4. Joseph Julian, born January 17, 1866, died September 12, 1870, age four and one-half years

5. Félix Sévigné, born May 29, 1868, married 1st Marie Régine Judica

1. Eustee

2. Irena

3. Edna

Félix Sévigné married 2nd 1892 Lucie Bodin of New Iberia

J. Alcée, born June 1835, died September 5, 1851, age sixteen and one-half years

K. Eusèbe, born April 22, 1830, married December 7, 1885, Philomène Broussard. They resided and children were baptized in Breaux Bridge.

1. Joseph T., born January 29, 1868

2. Carolina, born February 22, 1870

3. Julie, born December 13, 1871

4. Eusèbe, born June 22, 1873

5. Marie Divine, born April 15, 1878

6. Marie Louise, born March 2, 1877

7. Philomène, born September 20, 1863

8. Philomène Eusèbe, born January 1885, died June 21, 1885

9. Jean Ursin, born January 14, 1886

DESCENDANTS OF  
FRANÇOIS THÉODULE BIENVENU

François Théodule Bienvenu, seventh child of Alexandra Devince Bienvenu and Henriette de Latil was born December 28, 1797, died March 13, 1887, age 89 years. He married January 18, 1816, in St. Martinville, Marie Geneviève Céleste de Fontanette, born 1801, died November 24, 1889. She was the daughter of Jacques de Fontanette, born April 22, 1754, died April 22, 1818, Brigadier in the Company of Cerabiniars, native of New Orleans, son of Santiago Benigne de Fontanette of Burgundy, France, Médecin du Roi and King's Counselor in Louisiana) and Louise Charlotte Céleste Pellerin, native of Attakapas, daughter of Louis Gérard Pellerin and Marie Martha Hubert. Jacques de Fontanette was a large landowner in the Attakapas, having occupied and claimed 30 arpents front on both sides of Bayou Teche, part of the original land grant to Bernard Dauterive.

François Théodule was 17 years old at the time he and his five brothers fought in the Battle of New Orleans. After the Battle, they returned to the Attakapas and he married one year later, his bride being 15 years of age. His name is found on a list of persons who applied for a state pension granted to Louisiana soldiers who served in the War of 1812. (Louisiana Genealogical Register, XV (1968), 1.)

They had eleven children:

A. Charlotte Harmino, born February 23, 1817, married April 27, 1835, Théodule Bienvenu, son of Alexandre Devince, Jr., and Uranie de la Barre.

1. François Alexandra, born July 28, 1837, married 1st Amanda Riviera; married 2nd Victoria Amanda Fontanette of Orleans Parish

1. Joseph, born January 9, 1862, in Jaannaratta, married Virginia Bishoff of New Orleans

1. Elma, married Victor Thorn

2. Doris, married Joseph Salchek

3. Ethel, married Mario Bonfanti

4. Virginia, married Dr. Wayne P. Wallace

2. Fernand, married (?) Rivet (Riviera?)

B. Célestine, born August 1820, died October 1821

C. Jacques Alfrad Devince, born November 22, 1821, died September 13, 1855, age 33 years, married November 30, 1845, Marie Sophie Bienvenu, daughter of Pierre Terville Bienvenu and Sophia de Karlagand.

1. Marie Cecilia, born March 10, 1846, married David Coudroy de Laureat, born 1817 of Guadeloupe

1. Alfred, born 1868, married Laurence Bienvenu daughter of Adolphe Bienvenu and Emma Parce

1. Isabelle, married M. P. Guirard

1. Lorraine, married Curry Cappel

2. Alfred

2. Louis, January 7, 1893, died June 27, 1940, married Basile Fuseller, daughter of Gabriel Fuseller and Bazille Fuseller

1. Ethel May, born September 22, 1913, married William Douglas Steckman

2. Helen, born December 22, 1914, married Otto Joseph Brettrager

1. Christopher, married Bonnie Marie Dugas      2. Bonnie Isabelle

3. Flora Maria, born December 21, 1921, married James Joseph LaBlanc

1. Philip Louis, married Mary Lou Boudreaux

2. Rebecca Ann, married Alois John Picard

3. Mary Faya, married Edward Lee Gambrill

4. Barry Lawrence

3. George

2. George Rand, born September 7, 1869, married Marie Ducrest

1. George, married Aline Sullivan, 2 children

2. Carman, married George Gardiner, no children

3. Céleste, married Edward Boagni, Jr.

1. Edward Boagni, III, M.D., married Ethel Hees

4. Marie, unmarried

5. Boni J., married Dorothy Ladbetter, no children

6. Margaret, married Warren Taylor, 2 children

7. Thomas Hugh, married Laurita Evans, 3 children

8. David, married Eva Allan, 4 children

9. Paul, married Alice Hughes, 4 children

10. Harry Howard, married May Percy, adopted 3 children

11. R. Todd, married Leann Halloran

12. Charles Félix (1897-99)

13. Francis R. (1905-18)

3. Medeline, born September 23, 1871
4. Merie, born 1872
5. David, born June 24, 1873
8. Cécile, born 1877
2. Joseph Ernest, born February 11, 1848, married October 28, 1871, Eugénia Aurélie Berard
  1. Joseph Eugène, born October 6, 1872
  2. Marie Thérèse, born October 29, 1874
  3. Marie Odile, born July 9, 1877
  4. Joseph Ernest, born April 20, 1880
  5. John Philippe, born May 27, 1882
3. Marie Elodie, born June 7, 1850
4. Marie Alice, born May 1, 1852, died August 14, 1886, age 14 years
5. Joseph Emmanuel, born September 29, 1853
8. Corinne, born September 17, 1855
- D. Joseph Monmartel, born December 9, 1822, died March 8, 1868, age 45 years, married February 3, 1853, Clélie Merguerite Migaux of New Iberia.
1. Joseph Alfred, born September 23, 1855, married May 18, 1875, Laurence Richard of Charenton
  1. Marie Philomène, born September 19, 1878
  2. Joseph Alfred, born August 19, 1878
  3. Jeanne Augustine, born August 18, 1881
2. Marie Stéphanie, married May 18, 1876, Anthony Renoudet
3. Nicolas, married August 14, 1872, Mancellite Alexandrina Etie
  1. Ednae, born July 1873, died January 28, 1874
  2. Vilcar, born May 1878, died February 18, 1877
  3. Clara, born July 10, 1878
  4. Alphonse, born January 20, 1883
  5. Alphonsine, born January 20, 1883
4. Clément Monmartel, born June 30, 1857
5. Louise Ade, born September 30, 1858, Abbeville, married May 4, 1880, Anatole Wolford of Charenton
8. Edmond Oacer, born November 20, 1860, died August 10, 1887
7. Ambroise, born November 23, 1862, died August 11, 1887
8. Olympe, born February 1, 1865, married June 1, 1890, Louis Fernand Pecot in Charenton
9. Clémence, born February 18, 1867, died March 1, 1887
- E. Hypolite Numa, born July 8, 1824, married November 10, 1846, Félicité Anesida Bienvenu, daughter of Pierre Terville Bienvenu and Sophie de Kerlegend.
1. Nicolas Erasme, born June 13, 1847, died September 5, 1848
2. Stanislas Numa, born July 1849, died February 7, 1882, age 13 years
3. Marie Darcienne, born February 4, 1855
4. Paul Jean Hypolite, born September 11, 1858, married April 3, 1877, Eléonore Beal'n
  1. Marie Inez, born September 8, 1878
  2. Louis Joseph Alexis, born August 30, 1860
  3. Marie Aline, born February 24, 1883
  4. Marie Sophie Louise, born November 17, 1888
5. Geneviève Darcienne, born January 8, 1859, married June 18, 1874, Edwin (Guérinière) Bienvenu, born October 1858
  1. Belle
8. Louis Leizaire, born September 27, 1860, died December 31, 1861
- F. Félicité Ezilda, born June 9, 1827, married April 7, 1847, Jean Victor Boudier
- G. Marie Antonio Angelina, born November 2, 1829, died September 22, 1890, married July 10, 1847, Martin Alphonse Bienvenu, son of Joseph Terence Bienvenu and Julie Guilbeau.
1. Martin Félix, born May 28, 1848, unmarried
2. Joseph Enould, born April 1850, died October 28, 1851
3. Louis Gilbert, born July 17, 1852, married February 14, 1878, Félicienne LeBlanc of Youngville
  1. Louis Alfred, born November 17, 1879
  2. Joseph Alphonse, born January 3, 1882
  3. Robert, born February 20, 1888
  4. Louis Gilbert, born December 19, 1894, died 1962, married 1st (?) Babin
    1. Loris, married B. Renard
    2. Doris, married Gledys Bourque
- Louis Gilbert, married 2nd Nohlis Romero
  3. Willis, married Charlene Dimmick of New York
  4. Willie, married Wilson Romero of New Iberia

5. Hazel, married Willie Guilbeaux
6. Una Mae, married Percy Hoffpauir
7. Dorothy Mee, married Preston Martin, Jr., of Franklin
8. Will, died in childhood
9. Wiltz, born January 1, 1940, married Pearl Champagne
10. Shirley, married James Dupuis of New Iberie

## 5. "Girl"

1. Rene, married (?) Savoy
4. Gabriel Edmond, born July 14, 1854
5. Marie Angelle, born August 14, 1838, married February 28, 1878, Louis-Benjamin "Uncle Ben" Durand, born 1853
  1. Joseph Walter, born February 7, 1879
  2. Michel Etienne, born September 28, 1880
  3. Frédéric Xavier, born March 1883
8. Joseph Raoul, born March 4, 1883, married February 3, 1883, Marie Gabrielle Retier. He served for many years as Deputy Sheriff of Saint Martin Parish.
  1. Bernadette, unmarried
  2. Sidney
  3. Helen, born 1891, married John Holland
  4. Angeline, died in infancy
  5. Caméola, born 1893, married Henry Leneux
  8. Felix
  7. Roger, married Anna Guldry, born 1913
- H. Josephine Corolie, born February 8, 1834, died December 31, 1899, married Stanislaus Devince Bienvenu, born November 18, 1828, son of Pierre Tarville Bienvenu and Sophie Guicbo de Kerlegand.
  1. Marie Alice, born July 2, 1853, married December 28, 1872, Sosthene Theriot
  2. Ulysse Stanislas, born January 17, 1855, married December 3, 1878, Elise Maraist
    1. Marie Agnes, born February 8, 1881, died 1948, unmarried
    2. Céline, married William Michel
    3. Joseph Anetole, born February 28, 1888, married Laurence Pricoux
    4. Ovide Jérôme, born October 20, 1892, married Cecile Collins, born 1889
      1. Marie, born October 11, 1920, married Mitchell Telley
      2. Joseph Ovide, born February 19, 1922, married Shirley Romero
      3. Camille, born February 18, 1925
      4. Jeanne, born June 21, 1928, married Thomas J. Duges
      5. Mildred, born February 8, 1931, married Marcel Maraist
    5. Joseph Andre, born 1894, married Bibienne Cormier
      1. J. Andrew, married Lite Bonin
      2. Lily, married Lerry Herper
      3. Sigrid, married John Taraldsen
      4. Elisebeth, married Allen LeBlanc
    6. Odette, born November 17, 1904.
  3. Marie Estelle, born August 24, 1858, married May 31, 1880, Alexandre Hebert
  4. Paul Henri, born December 12, 1859, married May 20, 1888, Mary Elizabeth Shins of New Iberia
    1. Coralie Mabel, born June 7, 1887
    2. Alice, born November 18, 1888
  5. Marie Coralie, born September 1882, died September 1883
  8. Octava Joseph, born November 10, 1884
  7. Marie Laure, born July 13, 1869, died March 18, 1927, married October 8, 1889, Arthur Wolford, born August 7, 1867, died July 30, 1939
    1. Sidney Joseph, born November 19, 1890, died July 19, 1965, married Mamie Hébert
      1. Sidney Joseph, Jr., born April 22, 1912
      2. Earl Benks, born December 11, 1914
    2. Arthur Frederick, born July 6, 1892, died August 28, 1927, married Yetta Labougeois
      1. Arthur Frederick, Jr., born July 22, 1914
      2. Carroll Elton, born August 22, 1915
      3. Roy Beverly, born January 9, 1919
      4. Laurie Owen, born October 17, 1920
      5. Bert Hylton, born January 9, 1917
      6. Jewell Elisa, born September 1, 1924
    3. Lionel Thomas, born December 18, 1893, married Carrie Louise Poirson
      1. Lionel Thomas, born March 10, 1928
      2. Charles Arthur, born April 7, 1931
  4. Ada Gertrude, born November 15, 1895, married John Irwin Viney
    1. Gertrude Bienvenu, born December 21, 1920
    2. Irwin John, born April 18, 1922
    3. Mery Portia, born September 18, 1923
    4. Ada Patricia, born January 7, 1929
  5. Maurice Patrick, born August 4, 1897, married Ella White Stroube
    1. Ethel Elma, born May 15, 1925
  8. Waldo Williard, born November 29, 1898, died June 30, 1959, married Anne Venderworth
    1. Fred Venderworth, born September 23, 1934
  8. Joseph Richard, born March 19, 1872
  9. Marie Philomène, born September 10, 1873

1. Adolpha Berthelmy, born May 17, 1836, died December 13, 1867, age 31 years, married April 30, 1855, Marie Charlotte Emma Parcel, daughter of William Parcel and Charlotte Célestine Dutel. In the late 1800s, she held leases to operate the Castillo Hotel and Coffee House.

1. Eugène William, born November 17, 1856, died July 3, 1929, married April 15, 1879, in Zion Episcopal Church and June 3, 1879, in St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church) Alice Edith Simon, born June 21, 1856, died March 11, 1941, daughter of Judge Emile Edouard Joseph (Edward) Simon and Harriet Helen Kitchen. They had nine children:

1. Willis J., born April 20, 1880, died August 6, 1932, age 52 years, married 1st Anna Thomas, no children; married 2nd Irma Rose Mouton, born October 10, 1880, no children.
2. Edna, born June 12, 1882, married Jacques Rudolpha Bienvenu, born 1872, son of Thomas Edgerd Bienvenu and Elise Potier, no children
3. Lélie, born February 14, 1884, died June 12, 1907, married Paul J. Fleming, born 1874

1. Alice, died in infancy
2. Adopted Anna Broussard, married Lawrance Conrod

1. Adopted Jerry, married Karen Nelson

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Anthony   | 4. David         |
| 2. Robert    | 5. Michael       |
| 3. Katherine | 6. Kay Elizabeth |

4. Palmer, born June 17, 1885, died November 16, 1961, married August 21, 1906, Anne Olympe Guirerd

1. Myrtle Mae, born August 23, 1907, married Dr. Blanchard Texeda, Sr.

1. Blanchard Hickman, Jr., born October 10, 1931, married Mary Louise Hinder

1. Mary Louise, born July 14, 1936
2. Margaret Bianvanu, born June 13, 1937
3. Evelyn Redcliff, born June 27, 1961
4. Blanchard Hickman III, born May 10, 1965

2. Palmer James, born May 30, 1935, married Nancy Jo Tberiot

- |                                          |                                           |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Palmer James, Jr., born April 1, 1957 | 3. Charles Thariot, born February 1, 1962 |
| 2. Anna Maria, born May 27, 1956         | 4. Nancy Elizabeth, born July 17, 1966    |

3. Richard Paul, born May 12, 1942, married Colleen Spencer

- |                                             |                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Richard Paul, Jr., born January 20, 1967 | 2. David Spance, born March 9, 1971 |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

5. Lean, born September 1, 1887, married Thomas Lucien Bienvenu, son of Thomas Thimécourt Bienvenu and Lucie Gabriella Maréchal

1. Wilmer, born March 9, 1906, died November 9, 1978, married Lane Domingua

1. Marion, married James Robicheux

- |                                |                              |          |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Susan, married Douglas Mohr | 2. John, married Sue Berrett | 3. Allen |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|

2. Wilmer, Jr., married Billie Joyce Judica

- |                                    |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Bonnie, married Jacques Bullard | 4. Jody, married Remon Fuselier, Jr. |
| 2. Martin, married Donna Chastant  | 5. Dina                              |
| 3. Anthony                         | 6. Scotty                            |

3. Ellen, married Mika LeBlanc

- |         |          |
|---------|----------|
| 1. Mark | 2. David |
|---------|----------|

2. Thomas Horece, born July 2, 1911, married Collaan Tete

1. Carolyn Tete Savoy, married Samuel Inzerella

- |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Kim Ann, born February 14, 1967    | 3. Lisa Maria, born October 31, 1969 |
| 2. Samuel Anthony, born July 11, 1966 |                                      |

2. Thomas Horece II, born June 23, 1949, married Myra Oubre

3. Michael Eric, born October 9, 1953, married Karen Guidry

4. Jack Anthony, born February 22, 1961

3. Madeline, born October 23, 1912, married Mizael Barnard

1. Douglas, born December 14, 1937

2. Thomas Lucien, born November 7, 1939, married 1st Dianna Walker

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Bret, born October 2, 1964 | 2. Scott, born September 27, 1966 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

married 2nd Pamela Kincaid

- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3. Jennifer, born February 12, 1973 | 4. Jessica, born February 26, 1975 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

4. Herman, born February 11, 1918, married Mercella Olivier

1. Louise, born June 8, 1944, married Amery J. Champegnia

1. Anne Catharine, born October 14, 1967
2. Stephenie Louise, born February 13, 1969
3. Thomas Martin, born January 31, 1975

2. Mercia, born November 24, 1945, married Jerry Delhomme
    1. Jeffery, born December 26, 1970
    2. Joke, born January 10, 1975
    3. Rebecca, born May 5, 1950
    4. Babette, born December 19, 1951, married Nelson Dugas
    5. Carolyn, born December 2, 1953, married Jerome Bourque, Jr.
    6. Mary Margaret, born March 10, 1961
  6. Edward, born September 7, 1892, died April 5, 1967, married September 24, 1913, Fabiola Guirerd
    1. Lolita Belle, born December 28, 1914, married John Thorp
      1. Charles Gray, born April 11, 1951, married Jeanine Laing
        1. Jeremy Grey
      2. Edward, Jr., born April 12, 1916, married Jeanette Weinberg
        1. Jacqueline Ann, born September 14, 1946, married John Womack, Jr.
          1. John III, born May 10, 1976
        2. Richard Cory, born May 19, 1950, married Patricia Neff
      3. St. Clair, born May 6, 1922, married Martha Sawell
        1. Marsha Antoinette, born April 5, 1947, married Tryva Breckin
        2. St. Clair, Jr., born July 19, 1951, married Janet Breckett
        3. Barbara Louise, born July 20, 1953
      4. John, born December 3, 1929
  7. Reuben, born April 21, 1894, died November 24, 1970, married Blanche Marie Bonin
    1. Reuben Bertin, born October 5, 1922, died September 5, 1979, married 1st Shirley Mae Stevens
      1. Reuben Shirley, born March 27, 1942, married Olivia Calais
        1. Stavan, born November 18, 1970
        2. Susan, born January 1, 1972
      - married 2nd Claudine Boan, no children
      - married 3rd Virgil
    2. Willie Zachary, born March 15, 1930, married Marianne Villerman
      1. Merie Rando, born January 30, 1956
      2. Anne Blanchetta, born August 26, 1956
      3. Will Zachary, born June 12, 1961
      4. Paul Garard, born October 8, 1963
      5. Michelle Marie, born January 5, 1972
      6. Thérèse, born September 1, 1973
  3. Dianna Marie, born December 6, 1931, married Louis Alton Broussard
    1. William, born October 19, 1956
    2. Richard, born August 25, 1959
    3. Allison, born December 2, 1960
    4. Kenward Eugene, born December 24, 1933, died January 13, 1972, age 39 years, married Yvette LeBlanc
      1. Luke Elia, born August 10, 1959, died at age 3 months
      2. Kevin, born October 4, 1961
    3. Louise, born August 26, 1963
    4. René, born June 3, 1971
8. Zerben, born November 1, 1895, married March 3, 1924, Zoe Hoffman of Thibodaux
  1. Zerben, Jr., born February 24, 1925, married Gertrude Gauthier
    1. Philip Mark, born December 21, 1948, married Jana Wainwright
    2. René Charles, born February 13, 1950, married Susan Crusta
    3. Natalie Gertrude, born March 13, 1951, married Stephen Hebert
      1. Jerome Ernest
      2. Zerben Philip
      3. Edward Stephen
  4. Gregory Stephen, born January 24, 1953
  5. Stephen Francis, born August 26, 1954, married Ellen Armentor
  6. James Carol, born December 20, 1956
  7. Robert McNair, born December 6, 1960
2. David Mark, born October 28, 1931, married Yvonne Durand
  1. David Mark, Jr., born July 27, 1966
  2. Michael Paul, born June 1, 1968
3. Charmaine, born April 28, 1935, married Gleb Mementov
  1. Tanya Marie, May 12, 1958
  2. Gleb Mark, born February 11, 1950
  3. Elena Zoe, born March 28, 1965
9. Irens, born October 16, 1896, died November 13, 1978, married Harry Bowles, December 27, 1920
  1. Doris, born October 2, 1921, married Dawson Smith, no children
  2. Mildred, born May 16, 1923, married March 7, 1946, Don Sinicrope
    1. Patricia Ann, born May 12, 1947, married R. Walt Simmons
    1. Debbie, born September 24, 1969
    2. David, born February 18, 1971
  2. Louise Marie, born April 12, 1955, married Tim J. Price



## 3. Herry, Jr., died in infancy

2. Joseph Gaston, born May 1, 1858, married December 22, 1878, Hermance Maynier

1. Marie Josephine Gastonie, born March 1, 1877

3. Clara, born December 2, 1860, married March 22, 1881, Michael M. Voorhies

4. Marie Emma, born October 23, 1862, married Arthur Barerd

1. Milton 2. Louis

5. Laurence, born August 13, 1865, married Dr. Alfred de Laureel, son of David Coudroy de Laureel of Guadeloupe and Marie Cecille Bienvenu (granddaughter of Marie Sophie Bienvenu and Jacques Alfred Bienvenu)

1. Isabella, married M. P. Guirerd

1. Lorraine, married Curry Coppel 2. Alfred

2. Louis, born January 7, 1893, died June 27, 1940, married Basile Fuselier, daughter of Gabriel Fuselier

1. Ethel May, born September 22, 1913, married William Douglas Steckmen

2. Helen, born December 22, 1914, married Otto Joseph Bratragar

Christopher, married Bonnie Maria Dugas Bonnie Isabella

3. Flora Maria, born December 21, 1921, married Junast Joseph LeBlanc

1. Phillip Louis

3. Mary Feye

2. Rebecca Ann

4. Barry Lawrence

3. George

6. Ignace, born February 1, 1875, died July 16, 1930, married Anita Bernard, born February 12, 1878

1. Jeanne, married Victor Potier

2. Rose Aimée, married Ralph Baslin

7. Isabelle Italie, born June 30, 1877, married Robert Thomas, born 1870, son of F. M. Thomas and Corelie Thomas

1. Harry

4. Georgia

2. Robert

5. Maurice, died in infancy

3. Clarence

6. Gertrude, married Lawrence Pritchard

J. Chorlotta Mothilde, born March 6, 1839, married August 10, 1853, Félix Thélismar Bienvenu, born 1831, son of Pierre Terville Bienvenu and Sophie Guisbo de Karlagand.

1. Marie Sidonie, born July 6, 1854, married December 16, 1877, Amédée Poleynard of Orleans Parish

2. Amélie, born August 17, 1856, (Sister Mary Martina, R.S.M.)

3. Marie Mathilda, born June 11, 1856, married August 29, 1876, Paul Leufroy Robitiaux of Lafourche Parish

4. Félix Thélismar, Jr., born May 10, 1881

5. Joseph René, born April 16, 1884

6. Gabriel Joseph, born August 10, 1886, married October 31, 1887, Louisiana Duges

1. Gabriel Joseph, Jr., born September 5, 1886, died 1907, age 19 years

2. René

1. René, Jr., (president of Northwestern Louisiana State University, Natchitoches, La.)

3. Laurence, died age 26 yrs., married Charles Kretzer

4. Mathilde Mery, born February 10, 1916, married August Ferdinand Gonsoulin, born September 12, 1895

1. Joseph F., Jr., born February 12, 1917, married Violet McClanahan

2. Harold Gabriel (M.D.), born October 29, 1920

3. Glorie Louise, born October 1, 1922, married Donald James Bishop

4. Elodie Mary, born November 9, 1924

5. Mery Ann, born November 27, 1925, married Eddie Miller

7. Barthelmy Rolland, born August 24, 1889

K. Boso, born March 22, 1842, married 1st November 21, 1859, Jean A. DeVelcourt; married 2nd December 10, 1864, Jean Paul O'Rourke

DESCENDANTS OF  
FÉLICITÉ AMYNTHE BIENVENU

Paul Victor Augustin la Pelletier de la Houssaye, knight of the Royal and Military Order of Saint Louis, was married to Magdeleine Victoire Petit de Livilliers, daughter of Charles Petit, seigneur de Livilliers, and Louise Etienne de Malbec. He served as major de place in New Orleans and Mobile during the French domination, and the beginning of the Spanish regime in Louisiana. In 1786, he became commandant of the provincial militia. He was among the earliest settlers around the Poste des Attakapas (1), where he died and was buried November 22, 1777. He was the father of two sons:

1. Louis, born October 12, 1759, married August 1, 1787, Louise Charlotte Pellerin, daughter of Louis Gérard Pellerin and Marthe Hubert.

II. Alexandra Etienne Louis, chevalier le Palletier de le Housseys, born 1771, died October 21, 1811, et age 40 years, married July 31, 1798, Jeanne Louise Pallerin (died 1804), daughter of Louis Gérard Pallerin and Martha Hubert. They were the parents of 11 children:

- 1.\* François Belthazer, born 1788, died May 18, 1868, age 78 years
2. Urania le Palletier, born 1791, died April 12, 1808, age 17 years
- 3.\* François Gustave le Palletier Charles, born May 18, 1793, died July 25, 1818, age 28 years, married August 13, 1818, Marie Dorelise Judice
- 4.\* Louis Etienne, baptized April 20, 1793
5. Marie Marguerite le Palletier, born April 20, 1794
6. Charlotte Jeanne Emerite, born 1794, died April 25, 1825, age 30 years, married married January 15, 1811, Jacob Herry, (died August 1833), of Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland
- 7.\* Charles Louis Terence, born October 31, 1796, died November 18, 1861, age 65 years, married October 1, 1816, Louise de Blanc
- 8.\* Nicholas Théodule le Palletier, born February 17, 1799, married, October 24, 1818, Félicité Amynthe Bienvenu
9. Charles Alexandra Théogène, born November 28, 1803, died October 20, 1847, age 40 years, married February 7, 1833, Charlotte Estelle de la Housseys
10. Livillars, born January 13, 1804
11. Françoise le Palletier, born October 18, 1811

1. For the date and location of his land grant, see Gertrude C. Taylor, Land Grants Along the Tache, Part II.

\*During the War of 1812, all served in the Battle of New Orleans in Captain Joseph Dubuclet's Volunteer Troop of Tache-Attakapas Hussars.

\*\*\*\*\*

Félicité Amynthe Bienvenu, third daughter of Alexandra Davina Bienvenu and Henrietta de Letil, was born November 11, 1801. She married 1st October 24, 1816, Nicholas Théodule le Palletier, chevalier de le Housseys. They were the parents of seven children:

A. Alexandre, born 1820, married June 10, 1848, Marie Alzine Bonin, born 1828, daughter of Jean-Baptiste Bonin and Marguerite Mercallita Judice

- |                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Louise, born 1848         | 3. Albert, born 1854  |
| 2. Alexandre, Jr., born 1850 | 4. Octavie, born 1856 |

B. André, born March 9, 1821 (twin)

C. Félicité, born March 9, 1821 (twin)

D. Marie Hersilia (Azelle), born March 16, 1825, married May 20, 1842, Charles Guérinière Bienvenu, born 1822, son of Pierre Tervilla Bienvenu and Sophie Guicbo de Karlegend. They had nine children:

- |                                                                                             |                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Charles Césaire, born April 18, 1842                                                     |                    |
| 2. Philomène Arsène, born April 28, 1843                                                    |                    |
| 3. Marie Michéelle Geneviève, born October 21, 1844                                         |                    |
| 4. Raoul Ama, born April 12, 1847, died August 18, 1854, age 7 years                        |                    |
| 5. Blanche Alice, born 1847, married August 7, 1867, Theodore Leiteira Broussard, born 1842 |                    |
| 1. Guérinière, born 1868                                                                    | 3. Inez, born 1873 |
| 2. Blanche, born 1870                                                                       | 4. Walter          |

8. Vincent Guérinière, born January 21, 1848

7. Ursule Gabrielle, born January 19, 1850, married William B. Eastin

8. Maria Adrienne, born April 27, 1854, died May 20, 1856, age 2 years

9. Edwin Hersilia, born October 1858

E. Marie Loure, born ca. 1828, married September 15, 1848, Pierre Severe Wiltz, son of Jean-Baptiste Edouard Wiltz and Marie Françoise St. Amant

F. Joseph Vost Hortaire, born February 8, 1830, died December 20, 1847, age 17 years

G. Bernard St. Cyr, born December 18, 1831

Félicité Amynthe Bienvenu married 2nd November 7, 1840, Jean Henry Ribet, Jr., native of France, son of Jean Ribet and Elizabeth Cato. He was a planter.



# ANNE-FRANCOISE ROLLAND: AN EARLY LOUISIANA SETTLER

submitted for publication in *Attakapas Gazette* by Jackie Vidrine.

*Translated and edited by Mathé Allain*

Louis XIV had steadfastly refused to populate his American colonies through forced immigration. With his death in 1715, however, the policies changed. For Philippe, duc d'Orléans, who acted as Regent for the five-year old Louis XV, had no scruples about deporting convicts to the colonies. He endorsed John Law's colonization schemes for developing Louisiana, known generally as the Mississippi colony, and forced immigrants poured into the shores of the Gulf of Mexico—smugglers, common criminals, vagabonds, thieves, beggars, and women of *mauvaise vie*. The women ranged in age from 14 to 40. Some had committed murder; some were simply, like the fictional Manon Lescaut, overly fond of pleasure. Few had the skills needed to survive under frontier conditions, and most did not. (1)

One of the fortunate ones to survive her seasoning and adapt vigorously to life in the Mississippi colony was Anne-Françoise Rolland who, like so many others, came to Louisiana from *l'Hôpital général de Paris*. This peculiar Paris institution was considerably more than the name would imply today. *L'Hôpital de Paris* was a sort of umbrella agency which included, among other institutions, orphanages for children of both sexes, homes for the elderly, an asylum for beggars and vagabonds, and a correction house for wayward girls, La Salpêtrière. All in all, the *Hôpital* had at times as many as 10,000 pensioners. (2)

Anne-Françoise Rolland came from La Salpêtrière where she had been imprisoned at her father's request. French law specifically provided that fathers faced with rebellious children could request incarceration in a *maison de force*, and that is exactly what Ambroise-Jean-Baptiste Rolland did. He accused his daughter of being a "libertine" and brought his brother and brother-in-law as witnesses. Yet one does wonder. The large brood she produced in Louisiana indicates that Anne-Françoise was far from sterile, yet she gave herself over to "libertine" ways, according to her father, from age seventeen to twenty-two, apparently without producing any illegitimate children. One cannot help speculating about the step-mother's role.

In any case, whether impelled by anger at his daughter's behavior or prompted by his second wife's nagging, the father took steps in 1719 to have his child imprisoned. The Paris police moved fast. On February 13, the father swore out a complaint before Claude de la Vergée, commissary of the Châtelet, the Paris headquarters for royal justice. A few days later it was transmitted to Louis-Charles de Machault, general lieutenant of the Paris police. On March 1, the girl was in the *Hôpital*.

That same year, 1719, she sailed for Louisiana on a ship ironically named *La Mutine*, a name which can be translated as either "The Rebellious One" or "The Saucy Wench." (3)

1. For this period, see Marcel Giraud, *Histoire de la Louisiane française*, 4 vols. (Paris, 1953-1974), III, Ch. 6.

2. See Henry Lagier Desgranges, *Hospitaliers d'autrefois. Hôpital Général de Paris* (Paris, 1952).

3. Glenn R. Conrad, *The First Families of Louisiana*, 2 vols. (Baton Rouge, 1970), II, 26.

There were ninety-five girls on the ship, but unlike most of them, Anne-Françoise thrived in the infant colony. Her first marriage was to Nicolas Sarrazin. Her second husband was Laurent Bordelon whom she married in 1730. (4) Then the widow Bordelon married Jean Stephen, a settler at Pointe Coupée where Anne-Françoise died in 1758, (5) leaving numerous Bordelon and Stephen children to continue the settlement of Pointe Coupée, and later of St. Landry and Avoyelles parishes. Wayward girl or victim, she had founded two dynasties. (6)

-I-

To Monsieur [Louis-Charles] Mecheult, Lieutenant, Police

My Lord,

Ambroise-Jean-Baptiste Rolland, clerk in the office of the fishmongers, presents to you most humbly, as do the close relatives of Anne-Françoise Rolland, approximately twenty-two years old, daughter of the petitioner and his deceased wife, Jeanne Catherine Lucas, her mother, that despite his efforts to give her a good upbringing, the said Rolland, her father, had the sorrow of failing. On the contrary, this girl has since her tenderest youth showed every sign of a bad inclination. Though not wealthy, her father tried to prevent the disastrous consequences of her bad disposition. He made an effort and placed her in a convent that she might learn her religious duties and reform her bad habits. In the said convent she remained two and a half years. Her father took her out at age seventeen and placed her with a dressmaker that she might learn the trade. The girl did not do so but, on the contrary, became more set in her bad inclination as she got older. Despising her father's remonstrance, she has finally given herself over to such libertine ways that she brings dishonor to her family, as you can see. My Lord, by the petition of her relative sworn before commissary Le Vergée; and by the affidavit obtained from the pastor of St. Germain Auxerrois, the parish in which

4. St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans. Marriage Book A.

5. Baton Rouge Diocesan Archives, Pointe Coupée records, Item 1, p. 183; III, p. 21.

6. Soon after her arrival Anne Françoise Rolland married Nicolas Serrezin, garde-magasin. The Mobile church records mention Serrezin in a 1720 baptism, and in 1721 Anne Françoise, identified as his wife, is godmother. By 1726, the Serrezin couple was in New Orleans with three children. See Charles Meduell, *Census Records of the Louisiana Province, 1699-1732*. Louisiane colonial records mention three: Antoine, born about 1721, deceased by 1766; François, named with Antoine as a Serrezin-Rolland heir on a 1752 record; and Michel, died 1746 at age 18, but possibly older since he was born 1725-1726 [Records of the Superior Council, Louisiane Historical Center of the Louisiane State Museum; Pointe Coupée church records now at Baton Rouge Diocesan Archives; and Bill Berron, comp. and ed., *The Vaudreuil Papers* (New Orleans, La., 1975)].

February 20, 1730, Laurent Bordelon, employee of the Company of the Indies, married the Widow Sarrazin [Records of St. Louis Cathedral]. There were two sons of this marriage, Nicolas and Antoine [The Vaudreuil Papers]. Anne Françoise's third marriage, in 1737, to Jean Stephen dit Roquancourt [Records of the Superior Council; Pointe Coupée church records; and the Vaudreuil Papers] produced two girls; Anne, born October 1, 1736, died September 19, 1773; and Perrine (also Petronille), born April 26, 1742 [Pointe Coupée records; The Vaudreuil Papers].

The funeral of Anne-Françoise Rolland took place January 28, 1758. Her husband was buried on October 10, 1776 [Pointe Coupée records].

she lives as does her father. Upon which, the said Rolland, her father, and her relatives most humbly beg you, My Lord, to remedy the situation according to your equity and justice, as they will pray God for your health and prosperity.

-II-

Feb. 13, 1719

On the afternoon of the 13th of the present month of February, of the year 1719, appear in our townhouse, before us Claude de La Vargée, councillor-commissary of the Paris Châtelet, appeared Ambroise-Jean-Baptiste Rolland, clerk of the fishmongers of Paris; Nicolas Lucas, certified scrivener of Paris; and Jacques Rolland, tinsmith, also of Paris. Together they complained about Anne-Françoise Rolland, a girl of twenty-two or more years of age. They stated they knew that Sieur Ambroise-Jean-Baptiste Rolland was the father of the said girl whom he had from a first marriage to Jeanne-Catharine Lucas, her mother; that at all time he had taken all imaginable pains for the instruction and upbringing of the said Rolland, his daughter, that he had almost never let her out of his sight; but despite all his care, he little by little discovered that she inclined to bad ways and that her morals were becoming loose. That happened despite his many reprimands accompanied by kindness or severity depending on the circumstances, reprimands which the said Rolland, his daughter, disregarded, persisting daily in her errors, even increasing her bad inclination as she grew in age. The petitioner had the sorrow of seeing that whatever wise precautions he took, his daughter left the house, sleeping out several times. This happened frequently last year without the petitioner knowing or discovering where she was going or whom she saw. This scandalous life was bringing dishonor upon the petitioner and his family, but the said daughter, not satisfied with the scandal and affront she had caused, has this year doubled her debauchery, sleeping out more frequently, even choosing feast days for her debauchery, despite the reprimands and punishments of the petitioner. This made him seek more accurate information about his daughter, and he learned that the said daughter went to public dance halls where she picked up lackeys and others of the same type with whom she went to wine shops. Notably, the day of Candlemas, his daughter having left the house at nine in the morning did not return till nine at night. When she knocked, the door was opened for her by the wife of the petitioner, her stepmother, who had been waiting for her, very worried considering the hour. The lady was amazed to find her with three men, one of whom told her, "Get back into your brothel. It is open." This shocked the said wife of the petitioner so much that she became sick.

On Sunday, 5th of the present month, the petitioner reprimanded his said daughter again about her bad conduct and her disorderly behavior and tried to stay with her the entire day. That evening, around four or five o'clock, the said daughter escaped from his watch under the pretext of going to the bathroom. She left the house and did not return until ten o'clock that night. She did the same thing again yesterday and has not yet returned. This conduct is so horrible and scandalous as far as all the disorders which have come to the knowledge of Nicolas Lucas, her maternal uncle and tutor, and of Jacques Rolland, her paternal uncle, that they have joined with the petitioner to present this complaint, requesting conjointly redress against the said Rolland girl to make her listen to reason and to use against her all proper and reasonable means. They have signed in our [presence]

De La Vargée

## -III-

I undersigned priest, pastor of St. Germain l'Auxerrois, certify that I have often heard complaints of the bad conduct of Anne-Françoise Rolland, my parishioner; that she has been reprimanded and advised in vain until now and that it would be for her to be imprisoned.

Done in Paris, February 15, 1719

Labru

## -IV-

Ambroise-Jean-Baptista Rolland, clerk of the fishmongers, asks that Anne-Françoise Rolland, his daughter, age twenty-two, be imprisoned in the hospital as punishment. He offers to pay 100 livres for her board.

This girl has given herself over to debauchery and libertine ways despite the care her father took in bringing her up. She has refused to listen to reprimands, which made her relatives decide to bring a complaint before Commissaire La Vergée and to petition for her punishment.

This complaint and the affidavit of the pastor of St. Germain l'Auxerrois certify sufficiently the bad behavior of that girl, and I think that it is as charitable as it is just to grant this family the order they request to have her imprisoned in the hospital.

## -V-

Salpatrière

Order of the King

The intention of His Highness, the Duke of Orleans, is that the said Françoise Rolland, known to be libertine, be arrested and taken to the hospital where her family will pay 100 livres for her board.

February 25, 1719.

Approved

[Illegible signature]

I have sent the original to M. de Maurepas this February 26, 1719.

[Illegible signature]

## -VI-

Sir:

I have the honor of informing you that I have arrested and taken to the hospital the said Anne-Françoise Rolland, following the King's order, dated February 28, which you have had the goodness of entrusting to me. I am most respectfully

Sir,

Your most humble and obedient servant

Pons

March 1, 1719

## THE 1900 CENSUS OF NEW IBERIA

Continued from Vol. XV, No.3

| <u>ANK AVENUE</u> (cont.) | Date of Birth | No. of years Married | Native of | Father native of | Mother native of     | Occupation      |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 07 WEIL, Morris           | Oct. 1871     |                      | Russia    | Russia           | Russia (Nat., 1891)  | Dry goods       |
| Jacob                     | Mar. 1874     |                      | Russia    | Russia           | Russia (Nat., 1881)  | Dry goods       |
| Parent, Eline             | Apr. 1877     | (Male lodger)        | La.       | Spain            | La.                  | Dry goods       |
| 08 KLING, Leopold         | Dec. 1862     |                      | Germany   | Germany          | Germany (Nat., 1872) | Dry goods       |
| Ferdinand                 | Aug. 1867     | (brother)            | Germany   | Germany          | Germany (Nat., 1872) | Dry goods       |
| 09 DREYFUS, Jules         | Apr. 1866     |                      | France    | France           | France (Nat., 1883)  | Grocer          |
| 10 CAMPBELL, William      | Dec. 1872     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.                  | Fire ins.       |
| Dunbar, William           | Dec. 1869     | (partner)            | Miss.     | Miss.            | Miss.                | Lawyer          |
| <u>AIN STREET</u>         |               |                      |           |                  |                      |                 |
| 11 THERIOT, Ernest        | Oct. 1878     |                      |           |                  |                      | Livery stable   |
| 12 HALL, Gilbert          | July 1835     | 9                    | N.Y.      | N.Y.             | N.Y.                 | Lawyer          |
| Mary                      | Aug. 1851     | 9                    | La.       | La.              | La.                  |                 |
| William W.                | Oct. 1894     |                      | La.       | N.Y.             | La.                  |                 |
| Weeks, Harriet            | Jan. 1864     | (sis-in-law)         | La.       | La.              | La.                  |                 |
| Towles, Phillip           | May 1832      | (cousin)             |           |                  |                      |                 |
| 13 SCHWING, Flora         | Nov. 1838     | (wid.)               | La.       | France           | France               | Capitalist      |
| Ria                       | Dec. 1873     | (daugh.)             |           |                  |                      |                 |
| Frederick                 | Sept 1875     |                      |           |                  |                      | Dry goods sales |
| John                      | Dec. 1877     |                      |           |                  |                      |                 |
| Young, Sayline ?          | Apr. 1859     | (niece)              | La.       | Tex.             | France               | Capitalist      |
| 14 PATOUT, Felix          | May 1833      | 23                   | La.       | France           | France               | Capitalist      |
| Claire                    | Jan. 1854     | 23                   | France    | France           | France               |                 |
| Marie                     | July 1878     |                      | La.       | La.              | France               |                 |
| Henry                     | Apr. 1882     |                      | La.       | La.              | France               | at school       |
| Sidney                    | Apr. 1884     |                      | La.       | La.              | France               | at school       |
| Gaston                    | Apr. 1887     |                      | La.       | La.              | France               | at school       |
| Frederic                  | Oct. 1888     |                      | La.       | La.              | France               | at school       |
| Lillian                   | Oct. 1896     |                      | La.       | La.              | France               |                 |
| 15 WEEKS, Charles         | Oct. 1832     | 42                   | La.       | Miss.            | Virginia             |                 |
| Margaret                  | Oct. 1831     | 42                   | Va.       | Va.              | Va.                  |                 |
| John M.                   | Oct. 1858     |                      | Va.       | La.              | Va.                  | Editor          |
| Camille                   | Sept 1861     |                      | La.       | La.              | Va.                  |                 |
| William                   | July 1864     |                      | La.       | La.              | Va.                  | Lawyer          |
| Mary                      | Mar. 1871     |                      | La.       | La.              | Va.                  |                 |

| MAIN STREET (cont.)    | Date of Birth | No. of years Married | Native of | Father native of | Mother native of    | Occupation       |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 316 LASSALLE, Charles  | May 1858      | 19                   |           |                  |                     | Farmer           |
| Elaine ?               | May 1862      | 19                   |           |                  |                     |                  |
| Charles                | Sept 1881     |                      |           |                  |                     |                  |
| Semm                   | Oct. 1882     |                      |           |                  |                     | at school        |
| Eunice                 | June 1886     |                      |           |                  |                     | at school        |
| Andrew                 | July 1888     |                      |           |                  |                     | at school        |
| Edith                  | Apr. 1893     |                      |           |                  |                     | at school        |
| Robert                 | May 1895      |                      |           |                  |                     |                  |
| Martha                 | Aug. 1897     |                      |           |                  |                     |                  |
| 317 FITZHUGH, George   | Oct. 1813     | 51                   | Va.       | Va.              | Va.                 | Capitalist       |
| Sarah                  | Jan. 1833     | 51                   | Va.       | Va.              | Va.                 |                  |
| Russell, Kate F.       | Dec. 1853     | 22                   | England   | England          | England             | Commer. traveler |
| Joseph                 | Apr. 1849     | 22 (son-in-law)      |           |                  |                     |                  |
| Henrietta              | Oct. 1891     | (granddaughter)      |           |                  |                     |                  |
| 319 DAVENPORT, Guy     | Mar. 1868     |                      | La.       | La.              | Miss.               | Pharmacist       |
| 320 MARAAT, Charles    | Jan. 1872     |                      | La.       | France           | La.                 | Machinist        |
| 321 MARTIN Ignatius    | May 1878      |                      | La.       | La.              | La.                 | Photographer     |
| Muller, Anthony        | July 1871     | (Partner)            | La.       | France           | La.                 | Lawyer           |
| Rose, Paul             | Feb. 1878     | (Partner)            | La.       | Ireland          | Ireland             | Grocer           |
| 322 HILLS, Charles     | Sept 1849     | 15                   | Ga.       | Mass.            | Ga.                 | Hotel keeper     |
| Virginia               | Aug. 1867     | 15                   | Ky.       | Ky.              | Ky.                 |                  |
| Lillian                | Jan. 1886     |                      | Tex.      | Ga.              | Ky.                 | at school        |
| Charles                | Dec. 1887     |                      | Tex.      | Ga.              | Ky.                 | at school        |
| 323 BAZUS, Laurent     | July 1831     | 45                   | France    | France           | France (Nat., 1852) | Landlord         |
| Mary                   | Sept 1834     | 45                   | France    | France           | France              |                  |
| Louis                  | July 1867     |                      | La.       | France           | France              | Storekeeper      |
| 324 BOYER, Peter       | Aug. 1831     | 30                   | France    | France           | France              | Tailor           |
| Julia                  | Oct. 1845     | 30                   | La.       | France           | La.                 |                  |
| 325 BOUSIGUES, Gabriel | May 1859      |                      | La.       | France           | La.                 | Bar Keeper       |
| Phillip                | Apr. 1835     | (boarder)            | France    | France           | France              | Day laborer      |
| 326 CARDOVA, Salvador  | Jan. 1830     | 16                   | Italy     | Italy            | Italy (Nat., 1873)  | Grocer           |
| Angelina               | Oct. 1859     | 16                   | Italy     | Italy            | Italy               |                  |
| Manuel                 | Mar. 1892     |                      | N. Y.     | Italy            | Italy               |                  |
| Angelina               | Dec. 1889     |                      | N. Y.     | Italy            | Italy               |                  |
| Charles                | May 1893      |                      | N. Y.     | Italy            | Italy               |                  |
| Vincent                | Oct. 1894     |                      | La.       | Italy            | Italy               |                  |
| Marie                  | Sept 1896     |                      | La.       | Italy            | Italy               |                  |
| Marian                 | Sept. 1898    |                      | a.        | Italy            | Italy               |                  |



| MAIN STREET (cont.)      | Date of Birth | No. of years Married | Native of | Father native of | Mother native of     | Occupation       |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 327 BOUTTE, Aristide     | May 1850      | 29                   | La.       | La.              | La.                  | Carpenter        |
| Corinne                  | Dec. 1854     | 29                   |           |                  |                      |                  |
| Flory, Alma              | Feb. 1872     | (daugh.) 5           |           |                  |                      |                  |
| Louis                    | Jan. 1872     | (son-in-law) 5       | La.       | France           | La.                  | Carpenter        |
| Boutte, Julius           | June 1880     | (son)                |           |                  |                      | Carpenter        |
| Walter                   | July 1882     | (son)                |           |                  |                      | Carpenter        |
| 328 ROTH, Annie          | Dec. 1856     | (Wid.)               | La.       | Germany          | La.                  | Seamstress       |
| Louis                    | Apr. 1880     | (son)                | La.       | La.              | La.                  | Day laborer      |
| George                   | Sept 1882     | (son)                | La.       | La.              | La.                  |                  |
| Elizabeth                | Aug. 1887     | (daugh.)             | La.       | La.              | La.                  | at school        |
| Dupuy, Raymond           | Mar. 1877     | (cousin)             | La.       | La.              | La.                  |                  |
| 329 KOCH, Mary           | Oct. 1833     | (Wid.)               | La.       | Germany          | Germany              |                  |
| Henry                    | Dec. 1860     |                      | La.       | Germany          | La.                  |                  |
| Adolph                   | June 1871     |                      | La.       | Germany          | La.                  | Doctor           |
| 330 SONNEMANN, Frederick | Nov 1868      |                      | La.       | Germany          | La.                  | Grocer           |
| 331 CADE, Taylor         | Sept 1854     | 24                   | La.       | N. C.            | N. J.                | Stockraiser      |
| Elizabeth                | Mar. 1854     | 24                   | La.       | Miss.            | N. Y.                |                  |
| Robert                   | Feb. 1878     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.                  |                  |
| Charles                  | July 1879     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.                  |                  |
| Catrine                  | Jan. 1883     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.                  |                  |
| Margaret                 | Apr. 1887     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.                  |                  |
| 332 SONNEMANN, Christian | Nov. 1833     | 37                   | Germany   | Germany          | Germany (Nat., 1854) | Harness Rep.     |
| Louise                   | Jan. 1841     | 37                   | La.       | France           | Switz.               |                  |
| Reginald                 | Nov. 1882     |                      | La.       | Germany          | La.                  | Grocery salesman |
| Doerle, Dorethe          | Mar. 1832     | (wid.)               | Lodger    | Germany          | Germany              |                  |
| 333 HENSHAW, John        | June 1847     | (Wid.) 14            | La.       | Mass.            | N. Y.                | Landlord         |
| Charles                  | Oct. 1873     |                      | Mo.       | La.              | Mo.                  |                  |
| Neville                  | Apr. 1880     |                      | Mo.       | La.              | Mo.                  | at school        |
| Harold                   | Jan. 1884     |                      | La.       | La.              | Mo.                  | at school        |
| 334 SEGURA, Peter H.     | May 1853      | 24                   | La.       | La.              | La.                  | Planter          |
| Cora                     | Jan. 1858     | 24                   | La.       | France           | Miss.                |                  |
| Emma                     | Apr. 1884     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.                  | at school        |
| William                  | Aug. 1886     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.                  | at school        |
| Jacob                    | July 1881     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.                  | at school        |
| Mary                     | Jan. 1892     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.                  | at school        |
| Cora                     | Apr. 1894     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.                  | at school        |
| Colgin, James            | July 1883     | (Nephew)             |           | Ala.             |                      | Day laborer      |
| 335 LAWTON, Joseph       | Aug. 1860     | 16                   | La.       | Va.              | La.                  | Editor           |
| Laura                    | July 1860     | 16                   | La.       | France           | La.                  |                  |
| Joseph                   | Mar. 1885     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.                  | at school        |
| Mary                     | Feb. 1887     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.                  | at school        |
| Lawrence                 | Oct. 1899     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.                  | at school        |
| Fontelieu, Leontine      | Mar. 1817     | (grandmother)        | La.       | Spain            | La.                  |                  |

| MAIN STREET (cont.)    | Date of Birth | No. of years Married | Native of | Father native of | Mother native of | Occupation       |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 336 SOUTHWELL, William | Feb. 1832     | (Wid.)               | Del.      | N. J.            | Del.             |                  |
| Fisher, Courtney       | June 1872     | (daugh.)             | La.       | Del.             | Miss.            |                  |
| Southwell, Jacob       | Sept 1878     |                      | La.       | Del.             | Miss.            | Day laborer      |
| Fisher, Melville       | Feb. 1873     | (son-in-law)         | La.       | Miss.            | La.              | Printer          |
| Fisher, Melville       | Jan. 1899     | (grandson)           | La.       | La.              | La.              |                  |
| 337 KNIGHT, Ira        | Dec. 1846     | 24                   | La.       | La.              | La.              | Grocer           |
| Mary                   | Dec. 1845     | 24                   | La.       | La.              | La.              |                  |
| Therot, Rosemond       | Oct. 1814     | (Uncle)              | La.       | La.              | La.              |                  |
| 338 GATES, Maria       | Aug. 1833     | (Wid.)               | Va.       | Va.              | Va.              |                  |
| Gebert, Amie           | Aug. 1859     | (daugh.)             | La.       | N. Y.            | Va.              |                  |
| Gates, Walter          | June 1866     |                      | La.       | N. Y.            | Va.              | Mgr. Oil Mill    |
| Gebert, James          | July 1853     | (son-in-law)         | Ohio      | Pa.              | Pa.              | Cap.             |
| Elkins, Cane           | June 1877     | (neice)              | La.       | La.              | La.              |                  |
| Hine, Eldridge         | June 1891     | (grandson)           | La.       | ?                | La.              | at school        |
| 339 GOLDEN, James      | Sept 1869     | 11                   | England   | England          | England          | Stationary Eng.  |
|                        |               |                      |           |                  | (Nat., 1881)     |                  |
| Annie                  | Jan. 1871     | 11                   | La.       | Germany          | La.              |                  |
| Georgie                | Sept 1890     |                      | La.       | Eng.             | La.              |                  |
| Gerald                 | Oct. 1892     |                      | La.       | Eng.             | La.              |                  |
| James                  | July 1896     |                      | La.       | Eng.             | La.              |                  |
| Reginald               | Nov. 1897     |                      | La.       | Eng.             | La.              |                  |
| 340 BUNCH, William     | July 1868     | 3                    | La.       | Va.              | Miss.            | Dry goods sales. |
| Maude                  | Feb. 1874     | 3                    | Tex.      | Ga.              | Ala.             |                  |
| Mabel                  | Oct. 1881     |                      | Tex.      | La.              | Tex.             |                  |
| 341 HEBERT, Francis    | June 1852     | 23                   | La.       | La.              | La.              | Furniture sales. |
| Victorine              | May 1857      | 23                   | La.       | La.              | La.              |                  |
| James                  | ? ?           |                      | La.       | La.              | La.              | Brick mason      |
| Clementine             | Sept 1888     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.              | at school        |
| Edna                   | May 1891      |                      | La.       | La.              | La.              | at school        |
| Palmier                | Apr. 1894     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.              |                  |
| Agnes                  | Feb. 1896     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.              |                  |
| 342 LEE, Charles       | Jan. 1855     | 12                   | La.       | La.              | La.              | Druggist         |
| Dora                   | Jan. 1860     | 12                   | La.       | La.              | La.              |                  |
| Edward                 | Oct. 1890     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.              | at school        |
| James                  | Aug. 1894     |                      |           |                  |                  |                  |
| Dora                   | Mar. 1897     |                      |           |                  |                  |                  |
| 343 PFISTER, Edward    | July 1869     |                      | La.       | Germany          | Germany          | Watch repairs    |
| Louis                  | Aug. 1868     |                      | La.       | Germany          | Germany          | Jeweler          |
| Fassbender, Paul       | Sept 1878     |                      | La.       | Germany          | La.              | Watch repairs    |
| 344 MURRAY, Anselim    | Sept 1854     | 4                    | Tenn.     | Md.              | Tenn.            | Stock dealer     |
| Theda                  | Aug. 1861     | 4                    | Va.       | Va.              | Va.              |                  |
| Mariette               | Dec. 1896     |                      | La.       | Tenn.            | Va.              |                  |
| Theda                  | Mar. 1898     |                      | La.       | Tenn.            | Va.              |                  |
| Theodrid               | June 1899     |                      | La.       | Tenn.            | Va.              |                  |
| Fitzhugh, Susan        | Oct. 1824     | (mother-in-law)      | Va.       | Va.              | Va.              |                  |

| MAIN STREET (cont.) |                     | Date of Birth | No. of years Married | Native of | Father native of | Mother native of | Occupation      |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 345                 | BELL, Irwin         | Mar. 1852     | 28                   | La.       | La.              | La.              | Steamboat Capt. |
|                     | Henrietta           | July 1856     | 28                   | Va.       | Va.              | Va.              |                 |
|                     | Susie               | Nov. 1874     | (twins)              | La.       | La.              | Va.              |                 |
|                     | Maggie              | Nov. 1874     |                      | La.       | La.              | Va.              |                 |
|                     | Anna                | Sept 1879     |                      | La.       | La.              | Va.              |                 |
|                     | Robert              | Oct. 1884     |                      | La.       | La.              | Va.              | at school       |
|                     | May                 | May 1888      |                      | La.       | La.              | Va.              | at school       |
| 346                 | HEATH, Mattie       | Sept 1864     | (Wid.)               | Tex.      | France           | France           | Seamstress      |
|                     | Annie               | Aug. 1887     |                      | La.       | La.              | Tex.             | at school       |
|                     | Henry               | Oct. 1889     |                      | La.       | La.              | Tex.             | at school       |
|                     | Eugene              | Jan. 1892     |                      | La.       | La.              | Tex.             | at school       |
|                     | John                | July 1894     |                      | La.       | La.              | Tex.             |                 |
| 347                 | GATES, Frederick    | Mar. 1866     | 9                    | La.       | N. Y.            | La.              | Soap maker      |
|                     | Loula               | Dec. 1872     | 9                    | La.       | France           | France           |                 |
|                     | Earle               | Oct. 1895     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.              |                 |
|                     | Ruth                | Aug. 1897     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.              |                 |
|                     | Dubus, Gustave      | May 1884      | (bro.-in-law)        | La.       | France           | France           | Dry goods sales |
|                     |                     |               |                      |           |                  |                  |                 |
| 348                 | POWERS, Joseph      | Mar. 1866     | 2                    | La.       | La.              | La.              | Comm. Traveler  |
|                     | Marie               | Feb. 1874     | 2                    | La.       | La.              | La.              |                 |
|                     | Philip              | Nov. 1898     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.              |                 |
|                     | Marionneaux, Louise | Nov. 1845     | (mother-in-law)      | La.       | La.              | La.              |                 |
|                     | Louise              | June 1876     | (sister-in-law)      | La.       | La.              | La.              |                 |
|                     | Rodrigue, Xavier ?  | Nov. 1897     | (nephew)             | La.       | La.              | La.              |                 |
| 349                 | INDEST, Felicite    | Dec. 1825     | (wid.)               | Germany   | Germany          | Germany          | Landlord        |
| 350                 | WHITE, John T.      | Jan. 1842     | 30                   | N. Y.     | N. Y.            | N. Y.            | Real Estate Ag. |
|                     | Sarah               | Mar. 1845     | 30                   | Ill.      | N. Y.            | Ill.             |                 |
|                     | Junius              | June 1873     |                      | La.       | N. Y.            | Ill.             | Dentist         |
|                     | Lizzie              | Aug. 1875     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.              |                 |
| 351                 | BOUTTE, Joseph      | Jan. 1865     | 8                    | La.       | La.              | La.              | Machinist       |
|                     | Cora                | Sept 1870     | 8                    | La.       | La.              | La.              |                 |
|                     | George              | Nov. 1892     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.              | at school       |
|                     | Willis              | Nov. 1895     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.              |                 |
|                     | Edwin               | Sept 1897     |                      | La.       | La.              | La.              |                 |
|                     | Cora                | May 1899      |                      | La.       | La.              | La.              |                 |
|                     | Sheard, May         | Sept 1873     | (sister) 3           |           |                  |                  |                 |
|                     | George B.           | Oct. 1862     | 3                    | Pa.       | Pa.              | Pa.              | Machinist       |
| 352                 | PROVOST, Charles    | Mar. 1875     | 2                    | La.       | La.              | La.              | Bar Keeper      |
|                     | Emily               | Apr. 1879     | 2                    |           |                  |                  |                 |
|                     | Arthur              | Aug. 1899     |                      |           |                  |                  |                 |
| 353                 | ECKURT, Joseph      | Mar. 1834     | 46                   | Switz.    | Switz.           | Switz.           | Jeweler         |
|                     | Katherine           | Mar. 1836     | 46                   | Germany   | Germany          | Germany          |                 |

(To be continued)

# Uncle Major's Account of the Early Cattle Drives\*

*Recorded by Anne Spotsworth Buchanan\*\**

... Uncle Major said that when cattle were driven from Grandpa's (Lastie Dupre's) *vacherie*, which was about fifteen miles from where Uncle Major's homestead near Eunice, they had to travel about thirty miles to get to the pasture at Grandpa's place near what is now Plaisance in St. Landry Parish. This was the first and hardest day.

From there to the Atchafalaya was about twenty miles and took one day. They usually crossed at Sim's Port [sic] and usually hired swimmers to hold the horns of a steer in the "lead" so that the herd would follow and not go downstream. These swimmers were experts at this and were regularly hired by the cattlemen who hed herds to be crossed over.

From the Atchafalaya to the New Texas Landing in Pointe Coupée on the Mississippi, a distance of about twenty miles took one day. From the New Texas Landing to West Baton Rouge, a distance of another twenty miles took another day. From West Baton Rouge to Plaquemine Town took still another day. From Plaquemine to Donaldsonville took another day; from there to St. James took another day; and from St. James to Vacherie on the Mississippi took another day. From Vacherie on a boat to New Orleans was fast work.

Sometimes they went from Grandpa's to Washington (six miles) and from there by boat to New Orleans in about two days. Since it cost two or two and a half dollars per head by boat, it was about eighty per cent cheaper by the land route.

It took Uncle Meior and five drivers to handle 150 or 200 heads. They usually drove from 100 to 150 each trip. Steers were four to five years old and weighed between 400 and 500 pounds. The consignments were made to Aycock and Company, New Orleans. On the return trip the men averaged forty miles a day easily.

Uncle Major said that on an average Grandpa sold approximately 200 to 300 beeves a year plus about 100 calves.

Grandpa had approximately 12,000 head on the ranch at a time. This was calculated by the number of calves "branded" each year. Since about 3,000 were branded each year, there were about 12,000 head on the ranch at a time.

Weights and ages of beeves at the time of sale differ greatly from what we know today. They were strictly cattle of the range—they grazed like the deer and the buffalo.

My "Uncle Major" (Louisiana Senator A. H. Mouton) dictated the above information to me many years ago. He had followed that itinerary at least once a year for many years when as a young man he handled cattle drives for his grandfather, Lastie Dupré. Senator Mouton

\*Submitted by Virginia Yongue.

\*\*Andrew Harron Mouton (Uncle Meior) was the son of Charles Homer Mouton, lieutenant governor of Louisiana in 1858, and Henriette Celestine Dupré, the daughter of Lastie Dupré and Marie Bérard. Ann Spotsworth Buchanan was the daughter of John Charles Buchanan and Joséphine Eugénie Mouton. Mrs. Virginia Yongue, who submitted this article, was the granddaughter of John Charles Buchanan and the niece of Ann Spotsworth Buchanan.

said that a cattleman of Louisiana, when he was east of the Sabine, seldom had to sleep on the ground with his herd and use a saddle for a pillow and spread his cabresse around himself to ward off rattlesnakes. The route was well known, and each night he made it to a homestead with a fenced pasture, and a pond, and a host willing to "close the cattle in" and give the drivers gumbo.

The senator's cattle driving career ended about 1884, just before he started his political career.

A. S. B.

May 14, 1978

#### EXPRESS AND STAGE LINE

*From New Orleans to Washington\**

The undersigned, having made arrangements with the Express Co. at New Orleans, have established a line of stages between Washington and New Iberia, connecting with the Steamer "Ruby" and the New Orleans and Opelousas Railroad.

A stage will leave Washington every Tuesday and Thursday at 5 o'clock in the morning, and, returning, will leave New Iberia on Wednesdays and Fridays, at the arrival of the Boat.

The stages will take passengers and independent mail, papers, bundles, etc.

John McDonald, agent at Opelousas.

Baldwin & Bro.

Washington, August 12, 1865

\* From the Opelousas Courier, Aug. 26, 1865.

In the coming year readers can look forward to the genealogy of the Bagnaud family and a continuation of extracts from the memoirs of James Parkerson Kemper, both to run through the four issues.

When the 1900 Census of New Iberia has been completed (probably in the spring issue), the 1880 Census of Opelousas will begin, and that one will be followed by the 1880 Census of Franklin.

The Circulation Department of *Attakapas Gazette* has copies of the map series, *Land Grants Along the Teche, Part I, II, and III*, by Gertrude C. Taylor, which can be purchased for \$1.00 each. Write to *Attakapas Gazette*, Box 43010 USL, Lafayette, La. 70504.

Sometime during the coming year, Attakapas Historical Association in cooperation with the Center for Louisiana Studies will offer another land grant map series, this one covering the Washington-Opelousas and Plaquemine Brulé areas as well as the Vermillion River Valley.

We are deeply appreciative of the numerous contributions received during this year, some of which have been published and others are yet to come. We are equally hopeful of more contributions in the future.

We will continue our policy of researching and presenting feature stories on landmarks in the Attakapas area.

Thank you for your cooperation during the 1980 year.

*Gertrude C. Taylor*

Editor